

290 4568

UBCHEA ARCHIVES
COLLEGE FILES
RG 11

WCUU
Corres.
Sewell, William G. 1941-1942

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

0408

over

121 So. Friends Ave.
Whittier
California

~~31. 1. 41.~~

1/31/41

Dear Mr Caldwell.

F
JC

Thank you for your letter of Dec. 28th. I am sorry not to have replied to it before, but this has been my first opportunity.

After Christmas my Mexican girl helper left and I have been struggling on alone. Finally we all broke down and my two youngest children have gone away to a friend's house for a rest. I am feeling much better now and able to reply to your letter.

I am no good at writing, so I sent your request on with my air mail letter to my husband! He should have got it and I should soon be receiving a reply to say whether he will write something. Unfortunately I was not able to send the banking pamphlet by air. I lent it to some one I have not been able to trace it. When I do I shall send it on to him. I am sorry not to be of more help to you.

On Jan 27th I received an air mail of Jan 12th, saying that my husband had reached Chungking. He is very miserable without us, but is glad we are not there. He says prices are terrible and people talk of nothing but how to live. A cook who got \$12.00 a month before we left for fuilong, has now come back at \$80.00. A cookie costs \$70.00. Food costs \$10 a day per person and that takes all his allowance. There is nothing left for anything else. I hope the Free China government won't go smash over money

0409

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

- but if money becomes valueless it will be the end of
resistance.

Bill says the new Chemistry building is marvelous
- easily the best on the campus (I don't know in what way
- from the point of view of utility I expect)

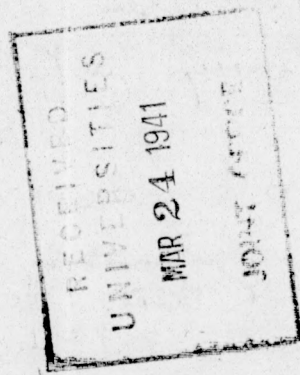
I will write you again when I get
more definite word from China about the pamphlet.
My husband took a camera back thinking to take
pictures for publicity work, but he sent it back to
me (via Victoria Peterson) so that I could take
pictures of the children for him. I/ he hasn't any money
he couldn't buy films any way.

Sincerely,

Hilda Sewell

P.S. Would you be so kind as to give the enclosed
letter to Miss Hume. Many thanks.

1/31/41



121 S. Friends Ave.
Whittier.

~~3/31/41~~

1/31/41

Dear Miss Hume,

I asked my husband who Sophie Chen was, I now have his reply that she is the wife of the former President of Chwan Da (the Chungking Government University) and used to live in our Friends Mission house at Chin Lung Kai. So now I know her. Your letter of Dec 2 says she is now in Kunming.

Have you got in touch with Mrs Jane Deye, Pendle Hill, Wallingford, Pennsylvania? She is very active in Women's College affairs in Chungking & knows everybody. She would be delighted to help.

Sincerely,

Hilda Sewell.

0411

2904568

over
F R I E N D S S E R V I C E C O U N C I L

Journal letter No. 2 from WILLIAM G. SEWELL

West China Union University,
Chengtou, Sze.

21st February, 1941.

Dear Friends,

Although it was not my intention to write at such close intervals it seems advantageous to complete my account of first impressions while I still have a little detachment and have not been entirely absorbed into the life out here. My last letter was written after being in Shanghai; this one will record my passage through Hongkong and return to Free China after an absence of more than a year and a half.

Johanne Madsen and I left Shanghai on a small coasting ship which took the best part of five days to get to Hongkong. Because of the restriction against women landing at Hongkong Johanne had to obtain special permission to pass through and was not allowed to land more than a limited number of days before she was supposed to leave. We had no time to spare, but happily our plane was postponed from Friday, December 13 to the 17th so that we were able to repack and see friends (British, Chinese and Danish) in Hongkong. Baggage presented a very real problem as we were allowed only 33 lbs. with no excess or hand luggage; and 33 lbs. are really quite inadequate for a visit of several years. It was not so serious for me as I have things in Chengtu, but it was hard for Johanne. I got permission to take a little excess so that she could bring her typewriter; we were also able to get a small case included with some University freight which two colleagues are trying to get in through the Burma Road. We have had to store most of our things in Hongkong, until an opportunity occurs for them to be forwarded to us.

Despite uncertainty as to the future, and an atmosphere of instability among the westerners, many of whom had been left by their women and children who had evacuated, the Chinese people seemed extraordinarily prosperous, fit and well cared for. I have always said that the British have given the Chinese good roads in beautiful surroundings on which to make love; but although this is not without its value there is something more as well. There is an assurance about the faces of the Chinese in Hongkong which one does not get elsewhere. As one Chinese woman said to us 'The grace, beauty, and happiness of these girls is almost perfect, and unequalled in the case of girls anywhere else on earth'. There may be a number of reasons why the Chinese have so blossomed in Hongkong: it is in part due to the stability provided by sound British Government; it is in part due to the healthy environment, well run public services, and good educational facilities; partly it is because of the Cantonese temperament; also many wealthy families of progressive outlook have moved to Hongkong because of the war. Whatever the reason, Hongkong has something which it can give to the rest of China and one hopes that the people will not be content, in their health and vigour, with lives of security and ease, but will take their gifts and experience out into the turmoil of China, whose masses could be changed by even a fraction of what these fortunate people have to offer them.

One of the outstanding incidents of our stay in Hongkong was a visit to Dr. Reichelt at Dao Fung Si, his beautiful 'temple' where the 'Winds of the Logos' blow. In the whole atmosphere of the place one felt the reality of his symbol, the Cross rising out of the Lotus: Christ completing what Buddha began. There were about a score of Buddhist students in the school, and while we were there some travelling Buddhist priests came to claim the hospitality which is extended as in one of their own temples. I felt that it must be easy to live a good life in such surroundings, in company with a man who himself radiates the spirit of goodness. We were taken into the crypt, a place for quiet self-examination and prayer. So recently had I come from the outer world of strife that it at once appealed to me as an ideal dugout; but as we stood in silence before the altar, and looked out through the tiny window above it to the bright beauty of the valley and the hills, we were caught up in a new spirit; as Dr. Reichelt prayed we felt that

0412

we indeed must be blest as we went on our way to China. That night in the darkness we passed over the 'temple' in our aeroplane.

The flight itself was without incident, and so emphasised the wonder of being able to leave Hongkong by night, fly over the Japanese lines, and, five and a half hours later, be in Chungking for breakfast. We packed and weighed our goods, repacked and reweighed, and spent our last night in Hongkong almost in despair at the fewness of possessions in 33 lbs! I managed to wear three pairs of trousers, several suits of underwear, two waistcoats and pullovers. Like other passengers I could hardly bend to sit; even Johanne was no longer graceful. We spent most of the night over formalities; then at last there came the thrilling moment when, in the darkness, the large plane was brought out - a thing of beauty, a symbol of man's achievement. For a few moments a bright beam lit up the runway and then we were off, rising above Hongkong, seeing the fairy lights growing fainter and fainter in the distance below us. I must have slept almost at once for it seemed no time before dawn came, and the mountains below us were tipped with gold by the rising sun. We landed for a few minutes at Kweilin, and when we had dropped down, once more to touch the soil of Free China, we found that there the day had not yet dawned; but as we waited the light grew stronger and the encircling mountain peaks, springing in isolated grandeur from the plain, gradually came to life. An hour and a half later, after passing over a great and almost endless sea of cloud pierced by rugged mountains, we were in Chungking, greeting Arnold Vaught and filling in the endless forms.

It is hard to write of Chungking. I could never have believed the destruction could have been so great, the change so startling. Familiar places just did not exist. Many areas had been burnt to the ground, opening up wide sections and giving the city an effect of being smaller because one could see across it with such ease. Friends' property, where previously we had lived, was just a heap of rubble, without boundaries, a dumping ground for rubbish. The pretentious shops, the colourful bazaars, were gone. New shops were springing up (high buildings being prohibited for the time being) but they were almost empty of goods, the tradesmen keeping their main stocks in safety in the country. Many people had scraped together a few bricks and had built themselves a cover for their few possessions and were squatting amid the ruins. An American lady who has lived in Chungking for many years told me that whenever she passed through the streets her eyes filled with tears, until one day she realised the tremendous heroism of the people who are keeping cheerful under such surroundings and felt in her heart exaltation that man could rise to such heights. For myself I felt the pity, the tragedy, the degradation of war. One day I saw a flower seller, squatting amid the ruins, surrounded by a blaze of pink and white mei hwa blossom; it was to me a reminder of the eternal qualities of beauty and truth which even a war cannot entirely destroy.

This question of beauty has been very much with me since my return. In Hongkong I attended a Chinese church which has been open for two decades. Over a thousand were present at the service, some having to stand; but everything was orderly and reverent and the building was clean and beautiful. It was in striking contrast with West China where so many of our Churches and Meeting Houses are places more like cow sheds, with dust, cobwebs and grime everywhere. Some of these, happily, have been destroyed; and as we rebuild when the war is over we have a fresh opportunity to introduce the element of beauty into our worship. In a world where there is so much misery, beauty of buildings, beauty of thought, beauty of human relationships are vital in any community.

Johanne Madsen and I stayed in Chungking for about three weeks, living with the Vaughts in their home near the Wen Fung Pagoda on the south bank. Their old home in the city is now a pile of rubbish. Arnold Vaught is doing important work in connection with various American relief organisations, and he has to travel almost daily up and down the hills and across the river, always keeping an eye open for the raising of the balls which indicate that an air raid is possible. The Vaughts were greatly rejoicing in little five months' old Ann who was full of life and health, oblivious of the kind of world in which she has to live.

2

9

0

4

5

6

8

2-21-41

- 3 -

The Friends' High School was well filled with students, and always strikes me as being an outstanding school. Both Johanne and I spoke to the boys on different occasions and saw a good deal of the out-of-school activities. On Christmas Eve we had a striking example of Chinese courtesy and thought for guests. There was to be a 'talkie' show for the boys, exhibiting a Chinese film; but when we got there it was to discover that they had got a newly arrived foreign film: 'The Scarlet Pimpernel'. It was excellent and we enjoyed it very much, and I think the children enjoyed it too though they can have understood very little of it - however the guests were really honoured, especially as they had got the local cinema to close down and lend its up-to-date machine for the evening! As a climax, on the following Sunday, F.L. Yang told the boys how their enjoyment was incomplete for, as we had been watching the film, beggars and poor people had died of exposure to cold in the Shanghai streets. So a special collection was raised and several hundred dollars sent to the Friends' Receiving Home at Shanghai.

One of the problems of war time Chungking has been the accommodation of the large numbers of foreigners who have come to the capital. There is a special hostel for press men and women, and in addition, in the suburbs, Chialing House has been built both as an hotel and as a centre for receptions. I was able to attend a couple of gatherings there, one of which was organised by a Government department. It gave an interesting sidelight on Chungking life to mix with a company which included Chinese Government ministers, ambassadors of several nations, and newspaper men representing the leading papers of the world. Nearly 'everybody' was there and in the space of an hour or so I was able to get through more of my business than I could have achieved in a fortnight of individual visits. The one problem of Chialing House is getting there, a difficulty shared by many places in Chungking which is getting more and more scattered as the war continues. No one who has travelled in a Chungking bus, who has fought to get in, who has seen men and women struggling like animals, clinging to the moving vehicles, and being scattered off on the road as speed is gained, can have much faith that courtesy is inborn in the Chinese. This is a new world, but not so brave.

Then at last the time came for us to leave for Chengtu. One morning Arnold Vaught, who was coming up for Annual Meetings, Johanne Madsen and I waited at the air port. We sat and walked and drank tea for many hours, but then when the plane came it was only a matter of minutes - about eighty - before we were in Chengtu. I have no first impressions to record; I can not even say I was glad to be back, for I soon discovered that nearly everything that made life effective and worth living in this part of the world had been left behind in California.

The first fortnight was spent in meetings. They were not very happy affairs as the same cloud hung over them as over everything else in West China. When two people meet there is but one topic of conversation. The cost of living is going up and up, until people do not know how to manage. As a Society, Friends decided that primary schools and one hospital would have to close, unless local groups could carry on without help from the central funds. Most individuals can economise no more, for they have already ceased spending money on clothes and are eating the minimum. One university teacher (in a neighbouring city) has perfected a way of cooking rats; while stories abound, such as the one in which the wife of a professor of philosophy asked her woman servant: 'How much does your husband earn?' The woman replied: '\$350 a month,' at which her mistress suggested they should change places as her husband, the professor, was earning only \$250. The labourer, the merchant, the banker, the farmer have no problem, their income rises with the cost of living; but the man or woman with fixed income is in sorry plight. The last item in Hilda's account book before we went to England in 1939 was a bushel of rice which cost \$2.30; now the bushel is \$32, and moreover it is smaller in size. Every price in China is affected by the price of rice, and the general average is nine times what it was in 1939 - at least that is the figure last week, tomorrow it may be up to ten or twelve times! Some things like coffee have reached the equivalent of 12/6 a lb., but even ordinary local things are now almost as expensive as in England; sugar is 5d. a lb., beef 10d. a lb., soap 2/- a tablet and so on.

0414

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

I am living in our old house, but getting two meals a day with my colleague Professor Spooner, at whose home Johanne Madsen is living while she attends language school. It gives me a shock to pay \$85 a month to an old servant who used to receive \$12, especially when I know I am paying him insufficiently, as he has to spend all his money on food alone. It is not easy briefly to explain this increase in living. Popular opinion is encouraged to think it is foreign exchange, but of course this is not so, as the rise has long since ceased to have any relation to foreign exchange which has kept fairly well at a level during the last year. For the first thirty months of the war there was a very slight increase in the cost of living, following well defined economic laws. Then suddenly there came a rise, control was impossible, and now it seems there will be no stopping the spiral of increasing costs and wages, though foreign loans, which are hoped for from Britain and America, may steady things. The shortage of rice is one cause of the disturbance and this has come partly as a result of the occupation of Ichang and the lack of local bumper crops, but mainly because the man with money has nothing else in which he can safely invest at the present time. Due to the war export of money for investment abroad is not allowed; those who have land are not selling; industries are not too secure; but rice is safe. There is on the part of some no desire to sell as money is safer when invested in unhulled grain (which will keep) but others are deliberately hoarding to make a profit when the price has been forced up. During the few weeks I have been here it has already risen from \$24 to \$32 a bushel.

Farmers are obviously well off, despite taxation. In 1939 it did not pay to have a farm of even fifty acres; but now a man with fifty acres is very wealthy. Previously it required the rice from 25 acres of land to send a child to the university for a year; now it requires the produce from less than 5 acres, despite the increased cost of living.

This year has been heralded as China's Year of Victory. It is a good slogan, and it enheartens the people. They need cheering, for despite the fact that this is probably one of the areas of the world where impartial news is hardest to obtain, people naturally are war weary (to put it mildly) after such a long struggle. One was very struck on returning to see the change after absence. There is less political unity, there is less solid determination, and, perhaps because I had come from England where the spirit is so virile and positive, the students seem to be living even more remotely than they were from the world of actuality; they have a theoretical patriotism which fails to be expressed in action. Attempts are being made through the 'San Ming Chu I' Youth Corps to cement the young people into an effective whole. It has tendencies towards fascism (natural enough in war time, but ominous all the same); while those who were previously extreme leftist appear as the guardians of the gentle socialism of Sun Yat Sen. One figure stands out unchanged: the Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek. His wife may be concerned with the dissemination of idealistic propaganda, but he remains a realist, a good thinker, and one of the best men in China. He is often embarrassed by the lack of character in his helpers, but he has sterling qualities, and the future of China rests with him.

The Union University is much as when we left it in 1939. It has not escaped the economic problems of the day: its staff members are given a special bonus in rice and money is lent to student organisations for the purchase, on good terms, of quantities of rice. We still have our refugee guest universities with us, but we have adjusted ourselves to working side by side, although we probably all look forward to the time when each can be separate once more. Of course there are problems, but we have learnt much more clearly how to deal with them. In the Chemistry Department we have the thrill of a new building: one of the largest, and certainly the finest on the whole Campus. It is to be called the Stubbs Memorial Building, and I am glad that Clifford's name is to be commemorated in such a fitting way. It is already partly finished; as rooms are ready they are occupied, thus relieving the pressure in the present Biology Building, in which chemistry has been housed. There is space for each University to have accommodation, which though not ample is a welcome change from the present. The front

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

2-21-41

- 5 -

entrance is not yet complete and it makes a delightful picture to see lines of laughing men and women walking the planks in through the windows on their way to or from class. Youth is the life blood of all these happy, keen young people once again. In their fellowship one realises something of what it is that drives one back again and again to China.

I am teaching only one university class this term, but whereas I had expected five students I have twenty five, including four members of staff. They are senior people from all four universities, and form one of the best groups with which I have had to deal. Because of the business success of some of my old students others are attracted by dyeing. I am also giving some lectures to a special class of Chinese Industrial Cooperative workers. Apart from this I am directing practical research into the use of natural dyestuffs; we are growing the plants here and then will work out processes of extraction and dyeing. With the exception of indigo, for which there will always be a market if the processes of extraction are improved, natural dyes are of rather transient interest; when this urgent war need is over they will normally be replaced by synthetic products. However, the situation in Szechwan has been modified by attempts which are being made to introduce a new high class wool rug industry, which would depend for its commercial success on the continued use, after the war, of vegetable dyes.

The news from Hilda is not too good. Roger, who has not been well for some time, is now said, like Daphne, to have coeliac disease. This will mean a time of special care and selected diet. The fact that this may be one of the first occasions when there have been two cases in one family may be of interest scientifically, yet it is no more real comfort to us than it is to a man surveying the wreckage of his home after an air raid to know that no damage of national importance has been done. Surely humanity throughout the world is linked in a fellowship of suffering as never before. Here in Chengtu we have families of all nationalities that are separated, in the case of many Chinese people without hope of hearing from their loved ones, not even knowing if they are still alive. With life so brief, so full of things to do, it is deadening for so many people, ourselves included, to spend the days wishing for them to pass as quickly as possible. Our present is made livable only because it is lit by a beam of past memories; but it is towards the future that our faces are longingly turned.

WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

AM/DPM
1.7.41

0416

2

9

0

4

5

6

8

over

121 So. Friends Ave.
Whittier

INDEXED

California
3-17-41

ack
3/24/41

Dear Dr. Gairde,

My husband asks me to forward to you this pamphlet describing the Natural Desert Project which he is starting in Chughta. The W.C.U.U. has accepted the project he says, and is trying to get funds from the Govt. Prof. J. B. Taylor has promised the support of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Bill Houghton you might like to help!

Ant-2 dozen photos
3/24/41

One more thing I would like to ask you. I wonder if some body would be kind enough to get me some air mail paper as nearly like this ^{sample} as possible - and send the bill to me to pay. I cannot get any in Whittier and I never go to Los Angeles or know any one who does go. Not

2904568

0417

3-17-41
do I know any of the shops there. I
would be very grateful if you could
do this for me.

Unfortunately, I have not been
having a very good time lately as
since Christmas the two younger
children have been ill. Dr. Mrs. Bruff
kindly took them into their home &
cared for them while I had a rest,
and they are now back again with
me, much improved. Daphne had a
relapse with eating something which
she shouldn't eat and couldn't pull
round again. Roger started the same
digestive trouble as Daphne. Under
strict diets they are both improving
now, ~~but~~ I hope will continue to
do so.

The coming of cool cloudy
weather has been a great blessing
to me, but I shall be ready for the sun now.

Sincerely,

Hilda Sewell.

2904568

0418

151 So. Farmers Ave
Whittier
California
3-17-41

INDEXED

Lawrence J. Lawrence

Paper of this weight and quality can be bought in the States - several folk out here get it sent to them. When somebody goes Los Angeles ask them to try and get some for you. Isn't there a good class shop in Whittier that stocks some? The WCUU gets its air mail paper through Garside I believe. I cannot send you this paper from here. The post office will not accept it - and in any case it is first imported here from USA or Canada!

Sample of air mail paper

...the kind of paper that
...air mail paper is made
...like this is possible - and the bill
...is paid by the sender. I just do not
...think it is a good idea to have
...of this kind of paper sent to

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

Natural Dyestuffs Project.

Purpose: To make available local natural dyestuffs and also train dyers how to use them. In addition to establish a permanent industry in Szechwan.

Introduction.

During this time of war Szechwan is faced with a great shortage of synthetic dyes, those which are available being both exceedingly expensive and poor in quality. There is an obvious need for the development and use of locally grown natural dyestuffs. Apart from Indigo, which as has been shown in India can, if properly cultivated and extracted, compete with the synthetic product, there is little chance of natural dyes being used on a large scale in times of peace. However if, as seems possible, a specialised and high class rug industry develops, there will be a constant, if limited, demand for natural dyes after the war is over, as these rugs must be guaranteed dyed with this class of colours.

It is proposed, therefore, to undertake a special practical investigation along the following lines:

- (1) A survey of the available plant products in western Szechwan their method of cultivation, and, if used as dyes, the method of extraction and use.
- (2) The experimental cultivation of dye-containing plants so as to determine the best conditions to yield the maximum quantity of dye.
- (3) An investigation of the best method for extracting the dyeing principle from the natural product.
- (4) The determination of the best method of dyeing.
- (5) The production of suitable mordants and assistants for use during the process of dyeing.

Preliminary work has already been undertaken by the Chemistry Department of the West China Union University and the results published in the British Journal of the Society of Dyers and Colourists ("The Natural Dyes of Szechwan" - Sewall, Hsiung, Swel and Wei. 1939, 55, 412) and in the Journal of the West China Border Research Society (Sewall and Wei, Vol X). The Chemistry Department is well equipped to undertake the above research. By means of Government Grants and through the cooperation of Imperial Chemical Industries and other manufacturers of dyestuffs, dye vats, a boiler, and other facilities for dyeing on a practical scale have been acquired. Two groups of extension course students have already completed their training; and an important cooperative for the dyeing of blankets by a method worked out in the Department has been established by some of the graduates.

Practical knowledge would be made available as soon as possible for farmers and dyers. A selected group of the latter, specially those connected with the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, would be given training in the application of natural dyes.

1. Survey. Both botanical and dyeing knowledge would be required by an investigator who would visit the chief localities where suitable plants are grown. Of primary importance is an authentic account of the growth and extraction of indigo. A botanist with experience of the province could supply information about the presence of other dye-containing plants. Information could be obtained from Agricultural and other research institutes. Funds would be required for

travel and for part salary.

2. Experimental cultivation. The West China Union University should be requested to provide a plot of ground about 2 mung in size for this experiment. Not only local plants should be grown, but attempts should be made to secure from other parts and from abroad different varieties and seeds. This is particularly important in the case of indigo as the dye content in different plants varies greatly. The local Szechwanese indigo contains about 2% of dye, whereas Bengal indigo may contain up to 70%. This is in part due to the type of plant cultivated and to the type of fertilizer used.

The following plants are among those which might be grown:

Indigo - *Strobilanthes flaccidifolius*; *Polygonum tinctorium* and varieties of *Indigofera*.

Safflower - *Carthamus tinctorius*.

Madder - *Rubia cordifolia* and other varieties of *Rubia*.

Yellow Bed-straw - *Galium verum*.

Turmeric - *Curcuma longa*.

Marigold - *Calendula pluvialis*.

Polygonum eripolitanum.

Common Gromwell - *Lithospermum officinale*.

In addition study should be made of the buds of the *Sophora japonica*, the leaves of *Cedrela chinensis*, the bark of *Rhamnus parvifolius*, and the wood of the *Phelledendron amurense* most of which can be found growing on or near the University Campus.

For this work the cooperation of a botanist would be required; also the service of a gardener under the direction of the Agriculture Department.

3. Investigation of methods of extraction. The importance of this part of the work can be illustrated by the fact that a few years ago India was faced with the loss of its important natural indigo trade. Special research was undertaken and by improvements in the type of plant and method of growth, but especially in the methods of extraction the industry has now been established on a firm basis; and the natural product is able to compete with imported synthetic indigo. If the methods of extracting local indigo are improved it may be possible to establish a permanent and considerable industry in Szechwan.

The purity of shade and the usefulness of a dye greatly depend on the method of extraction. By wrong methods the bulk of the colouring matter may be destroyed. This problem could be investigated in the laboratories of the Chemistry Department, the present equipment being sufficient. At a later stage, if experiments justified this, a large scale preparation of dyestuffs could be made; for this special apparatus would be required.

4. Method of dyeing. The experimental dyehouse at the West China Union University is well equipped for undertaking this work.

As soon as results justified the training of dyers, a special class should be organised. The equipment of the University is adequate for both small scale and works scale dyeing.

5. Production of mordants and assistants. During war time it is difficult to obtain locally and in sufficiently pure form some of the mordants and assistants without which it is not possible to dye the Natural Dyestuffs. Such things as oil mordants, alum, ferrous sul-

0421

phate, copper sulphate, acids and chalk are required. In the case of certain chemicals, for instance sodium hydrosulphite, (without which it is not possible to dye indigo or other vat dyes in a satisfactory manner), manufacture and sale might take place on a semi-industrial scale. A qualified chemist will be necessary for this work.

Duration of the Scheme.

While some of the plants (for example Madder) take three years for full growth before obtaining the maximum of dye content, in other cases (for example Indigo) the plants are annuals and results may be expected after a year's work. It would be hoped to make this Natural Dyes project a permanent part of the service of the Chemistry Department but in the first place an estimate is made for one year's work, as on the results of this first year the type of future development would depend. During this year there should be definite results from the survey, the investigation of methods of extraction, dyeing and manufacture of mordants etc. A longer time will obviously be needed for the botanical and agricultural aspects of the work to yield full fruition.

Budget for one year.

Personnel.

W.G.Sewell	provided	
Miss S.H.Wei (part time)	provided	
Chemist	2500	
Botanist (part time)	1250	
Trained dyer (part time)	1250	
Gardener (full time for one year)	1000	
2 coolies for dyeing and manufacture	1800	
	<u>\$7800</u>	7800

Materials etc.

Travel to make survey and transport of specimens	3000	
Purchase of plants, seeds, and cost of postage	1000	
Coal for boiler	2000	
Natural dyes for investigation and teaching purposes	1000	
Textile materials for experiments	1300	
Reagents, mordants for dyeing	1200	
Alcohol (for burners) and general laboratory reagents	1200	
Solvents and apparatus for extraction	1500	
	<u>\$12200</u>	12200

Total

\$20,000

The Chemistry Department,
West China Union University.
Chengtu.

February 1941.

0422

2

9

0

4

5

6

8

March 24, 1941

Mrs. Hilda Sewell
121 South Frieno Avenue
Whittier, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Sewell:

Mr. Garside has been loaned to the United China Relief campaign and we are carrying on during his absence until at least July 31st.

I am grateful for the report on the Natural Dyestuffs Project which is sponsored by your husband and I have read it with a great deal of interest. The support of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives is significant in that they are likewise involved in the United China Relief program which includes seven relief agencies for China -- the Associated China Colleges being one.

The help that our Colleges could give would be limited, of course, to West China Union University, as all of the money received through the Associated Boards is definitely allocated to the Colleges. There is nothing left for us to budget otherwise.

We are sending you some light weight paper for your personal use upon which there will be no charge at present. Of course, this is extremely expensive rag paper especially designed for air mail purpose. If it is satisfactory, let us know and we will figure out the cost on any larger quantity.

It is just too bad that you have to face the difficulty with sickness, but I sincerely hope that over a period this will work out satisfactorily and that you will all gain such real pleasure as is possible in this separation occasioned by the war.

With sincerest best wishes, I am

Very truly yours,

C. A. EVANS

CAR/S
MS.

0423

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

over
1
FRIENDS SERVICE COUNCIL

OCT 20 1941

Journal letter No. 3 from WILLIAM G. SEWELL

JOINT OFFICE

West China Union University,
Chengt'u, Sze., West China.
15th July, 1941.

Dear Friends,

Term is over, summer is with us, and it is time to send you another letter. China has now entered her fifth year of war; and few countries could have weathered the storm as well as she has. There are scars and wounds, all too many and too deep, but morale keeps high and faith in ultimate victory remains. One reason for the hopefulness of the Chinese must come from contact with their good earth. Even if food fails in time of drought the next crop is never very far away. Today we may be starving, but tomorrow there will be new rice or flour. No matter how dark the present, how bitter the personal suffering, there is ingrained in the hearts of the people an irrepressible spirit of hope.

One day as I was going into the city, over one of the new paths cut across the walls as an exit for use in air alarms, I came across a group of children playing on a pile of rubbish. In their midst was the dead body of a little girl, about six or seven years old, who had been thrown there, perhaps, by parents too poor to bury her, themselves too miserable to care what happened to the body. The living children took no notice of the dead, but continued with their game. Here in the university we seem rather like those children: we continue with our life, which is remarkably normal, while all the time tragedy and suffering are in our midst. China has never been in such critical circumstances, and yet many of us hardly seem to be aware of the grim reality.

Yet this last statement is not entirely true, for the rising cost of living is affecting us all, even the most wealthy. The cost of food has increased so that many people cannot afford to buy other commodities; consequently we are getting rising food prices and falling prices of textile and other goods. As a result the merchants, who so far have not felt the pinch, are beginning to suffer. When I last wrote, about Easter time, rice, which was about \$2 a bushel in 1939, had risen to \$32; but since then it has reached \$100. The last two or three days the price has again dropped to around \$70, either because of heavy rains or the shooting of profiteers, but there is full expectation that the price will rise again. With the cost of living 1500% above pre-war level people are full of apprehension. Yet through it all is the insuppressible Chinese hopefulness, this imponderable factor which, beyond all others, has upset the calculation of the Japanese.

Some of our Friends College boys have been running a restaurant as a self-help scheme. The other day I was in there and was watching some girl students making a supper of a glass of milk and doughnuts, while I, as the guest of the management, ate what my friend called 'soups, hens, beefs, sheeps and sweets.' I got an uncomfortable feeling that very few of my student friends and colleagues of the staff really eat themselves full, to use that hospitable Chinese phrase. One teacher when questioned said, 'Three times a day I chew rice and cellulose, day after day, and I'm always hungry.' Few can afford even occasional eggs, meat or fruit. We have reached the stage when, apart from the sons and daughters of wealthy homes, we shall have to subsidise our students either by scholarships or direct relief. Already this is happening in Government institutions where free board and tuition are provided. In order to get many applications from whom they can select really good students some private and Government schools and colleges are offering in addition \$20-\$30 pocket money a month. During this summer vacation 135 of our students have been found special work, manual, clerical or domestic; but more than 600 applied as they need money if they are to live. These are hard times, yet one of the most effective positive things we can do to help China is to keep on with our work, and always, even though we cannot picture how we can achieve our aim, we have hope.

So far Chengtu has been more fortunate than many places as regards air raids. We have had plenty of alarms and the people have trooped out into the country, but little damage has been done. Usually,

0424

7-15-41

I stay at home and try to get some work done in the quiet; but it is this very quiet that gets so very oppressive in a raid. After the banshee alarm has wailed there comes the shouting of the people as they collect their goods and move out of the city. The Chinese planes rise from the ground and their drone grows fainter and fainter as they fly away to some safe hiding place. The silence grows intense if the Japanese planes arrive, for there is a popular belief that the pilots are able to hear any words spoken from the ground. Perhaps the unusual clamour of the birds and cicadas will be broken by a group of pursuit planes, flying high up and taking a leisurely trip round. Sometimes they drop leaflets, anti-British propaganda or rhymes telling the people to save their money to buy shoes as they will have to trek out into the country very often. Then later, on quite a different note, come the bombers. They fly round, and then suddenly the hush is broken by a roar and a vibration as, altogether, they drop their bombs; then calmly they continue their uninterrupted way. Soon another group of pursuits arrives to photograph the damage. When they are safely gone the all-clear sounds and the city comes to life once more.

The people of Chengtu just have to take it, and the way they do so is varied. Many flock to the country, into the ditches, beneath the bamboo plumes. Some just stay at home. The crowds that move out are a cross-section of the population, young and old, rich and poor, healthy and diseased; largely, however, they are young men and women. Many older folk and women with young babies remain. My friend Mr Din, when he hears the sirens, at once rushes off into the country leaving his wife and seven small children in the house. 'Of course he must go,' Mrs Din will tell you with surprise if you question her. 'He is the bread-winner and what would happen to us if he were killed? It doesn't matter for us, but he must be safe.'

A medical colleague, who at the alarm leaves the hospital and patients and goes to safety, says: 'You foreigners do not understand. I must get away at once for my life is valuable. Unlike western lands, there are so few doctors here. What would happen to these patients, or to any injured in an air raid if I were killed?' The world is full of different points of view, and who can say which are the more rational and correct?

Students have never proved a more interesting group of people than at present. They have comparative security here on the campus and are immune from many of the war's dangers. They are denied by Government and pressure from their teachers and their parents, many of the opportunities youth the world over is now experiencing; and there is danger of frustration for the individual who seeks a more positive outlet for his patriotism. On the positive side students from all provinces are learning together a new national solidarity. At the same time the presence of four universities together means complicating life by providing too many meetings and outside attractions, and not enough time for quiet study. As a whole Chinese students are immature intellectually compared with European students and consequently depend more on leadership; and China as a nation sadly lacks creative leaders. To every student there seems to be too great a difference between the actual and the ideal; and not being able to bridge the gulf he too often gives up the struggle and sinks into a disillusioned passivism.

In a definite attempt to meet the situation the Student Christian Movement has been organising special fellowship meetings and discussion groups. In addition plans are being made to establish a university church. At present not more than 5% of the students attend services in the various city churches, and there is need for some organisation in the university itself which will serve as a focus for religious activities. The church will be really interdenominational, membership being either direct or through any of the other churches in Chengtu.

An inspiring speaker was the Roman Catholic Bishop of Nanking, Yu Bin. Bishop Yu is a tall northerner, scholarly, well known as a champion of modern China through his lectures and publications on the continent, in England, and in the United States. He came as the Henry Hodgkin Memorial lecturer and addressed many meetings during the three weeks he was with us. He proved one of the most popular speakers we have ever had. His official lectures were on 'New Ideas of Truth, Beauty, Goodness and Holiness', but in other talks he touched almost every subject, both religious and political. His final message to the

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

0425

7-15-41

Letter from W.G.Sewell contd.

- 3 -

students was that if they should forget all else they should remember to preach God, to appreciate the greatness of Jesus and to realise the fundamental unity of all Christians.

One aspect of student life which seems to have been prominent this term is the number of engagements and marriages. It is good that people should find their life partners in this environment, but it is surprising that despite the real freedom between men and women so many matches should have been made by middlemen, who introduce the individuals to each other if they find they are willing. A direct proposal, with its possibility of refusal, involves too much risk of loss of face for mutual comfort. For many people therefore it seems marriage is still something of an unsentimental contract. We had a visit from an old middle school student who had married a number of years ago. He and his wife then decided to divorce each other as they believed life would be economically more simple apart. He took up work in one city and she taught at a school in Chengtu. As they had two sons each took one. This time on his return they naturally, as old friends, met and spent a morning together. With similar hard common sense and lack of sentiment our young married women on the staff (who usually retain their maiden names) regard their babies in a matter of fact way. There is no thought at all that the mother should remain at home. Careers come first and emotion is scarce in personal relationships. Dr S.D.Du, who lived at Pendle Hill while he studied at the University of Pennsylvania recently married the daughter of Bishop Sung, to whom he had been introduced a short time previously. They had the honour (perhaps the first in the world) of having a special Quaker-Anglican service composed for the occasion.

This year marked the graduation of the first class of students whose four years of work has all been carried out under the shadow of war. During the service on Sunday we surely had the shortest Baccalaureate sermon on record. Dr. Frank Price was to preach but shortly after we had gathered there was an air alarm. The students took it magnificently, and in the crowded hall there was no panic; but the sermon was cut down to less than five minutes. Next morning the actual Degree Ceremony started at 8 a.m. to avoid trouble. The Governor of the Province, Chang Chuin, gave the address. He spoke on 'Quit ye like Men', and urged the students to be still, be patient and be strong. For years Christianity has been driven from our public ceremonies for fear of Government criticism, so it was amazing to have it brought back in such a vital way by the Governor himself.

During the ceremony there were hurried whispers, and obvious anxiety on the part of the Garrison Commander; but things were moved swiftly through to their conclusion, and we were all out of the hall before the urgent final warning sounded and Japanese planes passed over us.

A certain amount of my time has been spent on industrial problems, either in connection with the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, or with my own special subject of natural dyes for which I have received a grant from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. I was pleased to get published in Chinese a text book for an experimental course in dyeing which I have, in the past, already used for two special extension courses. Much of our work is naturally concerned with the special needs of the people round about us.

While living in England at Banbury in 1939 I placed a rather complicated and large order for chemicals with the British Drug Houses for various universities here. This order has been one of the epics and tragedies of the war. One section of the order was landed at Rangoon and came up the Burma Road with no more adventures than the usual delays. Another part, after leaving Hongkong, was carried through the Japanese lines in South China and then brought slowly overland by Red Cross lorries. The main portion of the order was in Indo-China when the weakness of France resulted in Japanese aggression there, so that the Chinese, in self-defence, tore up the railway line near the frontier. Across the ever widening trackless space the goods had to be carried. First of all, however, they had to be repacked into smaller boxes or baskets for easy handling. The conditions must have been appalling and our Bursar, Mr Albertson, who was managing the work, lost his life in the Autumn of 1940 from the malignant malaria so prevalent in those regions. Dr. Crawford, of our medical staff, then went to see what he could do, but he too was overtaken with the dread disease

0426

7-15-41

Letter from W.G.Sewell contd.

- 4 -

and its complications and lay at death's door. A Chungking surgeon flew down to assist him and was able to operate and then slowly win him back to health.

The main work then rested on Mr C.Y.Sun, the business manager of the Kunming depot of the Christian Literature Society who risked his life for the sake of cases of Bibles and other books and also for these chemicals of ours. Sun had hair-raising adventures with robbers and malaria; he underwent extreme suffering from boils, trachoma and privation. At one time he had to secure an armed guard as a protection against bandits and had to rent a revolver for himself. After two and a half months' labour he brought the whole cargo along to Kunming, except some empty drums, two small boxes which were stolen, and a number of baskets full of bottles which were lost when some horses fell into a ravine. Eighty-five coolies and five horses died; and in addition 120 coolies fell ill. One was killed by bombs and another by bandits.

The goods have now been moved from Kunming by lorry; some have already arrived in Chengtu and others we expect soon. I have been sorting out this order which I started on its way from England. Rarely have I seen such confusion. In repacking at the Indo-China frontier the various orders from different departments or universities have been mixed; and a number of bottles exposed to rain and acid fumes have lost their labels. As I survey the ruin I am sick at heart. A wealth of money, not yet calculated, has been spent; but I think chiefly of the men who have lost their lives and health, and I wonder if it could be worth it. Sun tells us that the only reason why they risked so much to bring these books and chemicals into Free China was so that they might help to make this New China into a corner of the Kingdom of Heaven. Rarely were chemicals hallowed in this way by the blood of martyrs. It makes those of us who touch them humble and unworthy.

Of ourselves there is little to write. One evening I broadcast to the United States of America in connection with the United China Relief Campaign, but I fear that Hilda would not hear me. Someday, perhaps, radio will be available for ordinary people to converse when separated. Meanwhile we hope soon to be reunited. Permission has been given for Hilda and the children to come here; and medical opinion is sympathetic regarding the children's diets. Suitable reservations are hard to get on the Pacific, and even more delays may be experienced getting passage for the flight from Hongkong to Chungking. However, unless there is some sudden change in the international situation we have hope that before too long we shall be together again. Chengtu, despite the war, is still a good place in which to be. There is a thrill of life, a warmth of friendship, a satisfaction of achievement which few other places can afford. As Johanne Madsen, leaving for the hills and then for language study in a smaller town, announced: 'Even if I never get to Heaven I've at least experienced Chengtu!'

WILLIAM G. SEWELL.

AM/DPM
16.9.41

0427

act-9-8-41 121 So. Friends Ave.
Whittier, Calif.
Sept 1st 1941.

Dear Oliver Caldwell,

Thank you for sending me the Spooners journal letter. I am circulating it among various friends who are interested in West China.

If the Pacific remains pacific a little longer I hope to leave with the children at the end of October, with Robert Sumkin and Margaret if possible, to return to my husband in West China. I believe the Kullatts are returning then too, probably on the same ship. Her husband has just left I hear. Unfortunately I was away on a vacation and so missed him when he went through Los Angeles. Sinc. Hilda Jewell

0428

2904568

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

September 4, 1942

To the West China Board of Governors:

Some first hand news has filtered through from Hong Kong by way of the returned missionaries who were interned there. Particular reference is made to Dr. H. J. Mullett and Mr. William G. Sewell and family, all of which were interned as British subjects. The principal story comes from the Rev. H. H. Pommerenke who was caught at Kowloon on a vacation from his station at Yeungkong. The entire group was staying at the Phillips' House in Kowloon on the 8th and thought that they were being protected by the British troops. However on the afternoon of December 11, the artillery firing ceased and in a hurried effort to find out the reason, word came that the British had evacuated Kowloon. Those staying at Phillips' House were given one half hour to make a ferry for Hong Kong, and in the rush they became separated. They also left behind all valuables excepting immediate clothing, Dr. Mullett sacrificing more than a thousand dollars worth of dental equipment which had been purchased for West China. Subsequently Dr. Mullett and Mr. Sewell were interned at Stanley Prison while Mrs. Sewell and the children found quarters in a very small room with four other people. The report is that Dr. Mullett lost considerable weight but seemed well. Mr. Sewell at all times had an optimistic attitude and was a great help in the early days of the occupation.

It is in order to state that Mrs. Sewell and the children arrived in Hong Kong around the latter part of November, 1941. Mr. Sewell left Chengtu after the 2nd of December and probably arrived in Hong Kong either the 4th or 5th, the purpose being to escort the family back to Chengtu.

Dr. Mullett had been in Hong Kong some little time and had a standing reservation on the airplane from Hong Kong to Chungking. Each night he went to the air field, but on the night of the 7th he did not go as he was told all the seats were filled. Had he gone on that night he would have found that one passenger failed to show up and that the plane left with one vacant seat.

When the American contingent left Hong Kong, the food conditions were becoming rapidly worse. They were eating bread made from wormy flour and the rice

0429

2

9

0

4

5

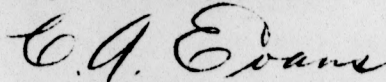
6

8

September 4, 1942

likewise was in danger of walking away. The one encouraging aspect to the situation was the possibility of early repatriation, and it is now our understanding that a boat with British subjects has arrived at Lourenco Marques. It is our earnest hope that these good people were included in this exchange.

Very sincerely yours,



C. A. EVANS
Assistant Secretary

CAE:P

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

0430

RECEIVED
UNIVERSITIES
SEP 17 1941
JOINT OFFICE

September 8, 1941

Mrs. William G. Sewell
121 S. Friends Ave.
Whittier, Calif.

Dear Mrs. Sewell:

I am glad that Spooner's report reached you, and you may expect to receive some new reports in the not distant future. We have received several interesting documents lately, and expect to put them into circulation.

I hope that you will be able to return to China in the near future, and that you have a pleasant and peaceful trip. I find myself envying those who are fortunate enough to be able to return.

Unfortunately, there is no recent news for me to pass on. Our last letters from Changtu described some exceptionally fierce and devastating air raids which caused hundreds of casualties. It is to be hoped that the new American planes and pilots that are now arriving in China will be able to put a stop to these mass murders of civilians.

If there is anything that I might be able to do for you through this office, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Very sincerely yours,

Oliver J. Caldwell

OJC:P

0431

2

9

0

4

5

6

8

American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street
Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

FOREIGN SERVICE SECTION

Telephone
RITenhouse 9372

September 26, 1941.

*ack
9/27/41*

Mr. C. A. Evans
Associated Boards of Christian Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Evans:

9/3/41

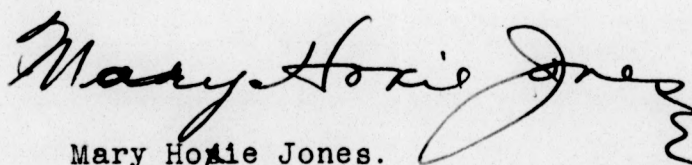
We have just received a letter from Arnold Vaught, enclosing a copy of his letter to you in regard to the payment of \$289.53 (U.S. currency), to the American Friends Service Committee for support of Hilda Sewell.

I had had letters from both Paul Sturge in London and William Sewell in Chengtu indicating that an arrangement had been made to procure support for Hilda Sewell, but neither letter made the matter clear, obviously because they could not on account of censorship. I suppose that the Friends in Chengtu expect to cover Marjorie Robertson's maintenance to enable the funds to be spared from the New York office.

If this arrangement is satisfactory to you, we should be glad to receive the amount named, as we are expecting to assume entire responsibility for passage for Hilda Sewell and three minor children, sailing on an American President boat, about October 24th. We have at present \$600.00 available for this, but it will be quite insufficient, and Mrs. Sewell needs maintenance for the month of October in addition. Any additional help will be extremely useful.

I am assuming that Mrs. Sewell and the children will sail as planned. If anything happens to prevent either the boat sailing or their going, William Sewell expects to come to the United States to join them. He feels that the separation is no longer possible, and he will leave his post at the University. I am hoping that this can be avoided. He expects to travel from Chengtu to meet his family either at Shanghai or Hongkong.

Sincerely yours,


Mary Hoxie Jones.

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

0432

American Friends Service Committee

20 South Twelfth Street

Philadelphia  Pennsylvania

Chairman, RUFUS M. JONES
Treasurer, WILLIAM R. FOGG

Vice Chairmen
D. ROBERT YARNALL
HANNAH CLOTHIER HULL
SUMNER A. MILLS

Telephone
RITTENHOUSE 9372
Executive Secretary, CLARENCE E. PICKETT

FOREIGN SERVICE SECTION

Chairman, WILLIAM EVES, 3RD
Secretary, JAMES G. VAIL

Associate Secretaries
MARY HOXIE JONES
JOHN F. RICH
MARY M. ROGERS

INDEXED

September 29, 1941

ack 9/30/41

Mr. C. A. Evans
Associated Boards of Christian Colleges
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City, New York

Dear Mr. Evans,

Thank you very much for your letter of the 27th September. On re-reading Arnold Vaught's copy of his letter to you, dated September 3rd, I can realize that there was no indication made of the use of the money. The following paragraph is taken from his letter of the same date, addressed to Clarence Pickett:

"Herewith I enclose a copy of my letter to C. A. Evans of the Associated Board of Christian Colleges in China, which I think will be self-explanatory. You will understand that this sum of US \$289.53 is to be applied to the fund for the support of Hilda Sewell and family in the United States and while I am purposely avoiding mentioning of certain details, you will also understand that I have adequate authority for my request that the money be paid in this way."

The rest of the letter is entirely personal, stating that their home was bombed again on the 30th of August. Though the damage was apparently not great.

I am sorry that Arnold Vaught did not make more clear to you the connection between Miss Robertson's quarterly allowance and Hilda Sewell's maintenance. I think what has happened is that William Sewell has saved enough money from his own maintenance to pay her, in order to free money in your office for Hilda Sewell. It would be impossible for any statement of this sort to come out in a letter from West China.

noted

The Service Committee is sending Hilda Sewell today her October maintenance. She has written me in a letter just received that the boat, due to sail on October 24th, has been postponed until November 2nd, and that a tax on

2
9
4
5
6
8

0433

C. A. Evans
9/29/41

- 2 -

passages of 5% will probably be added after October 1st.
I have not yet heard whether she and the children can secure
missionary rates.

Since starting this letter, our book-keeper has told me
that she has received your check for \$289.53 and I am enclosing
a receipt for this, with many thanks. It will, of course, be
deposited immediately in the fund we have for Hilda Sewell.

I am anxious to know whether Jane Dye has heard whether
she can get her passport. It will be a terrible disappointment
if she cannot. My aunt, Mrs. William Cadbury, has arrived in
Manila where she has been waiting for a visa to Hongkong.

Sincerely yours,

Mary Hoxie Jones
Mary Hoxie Jones

Enc.

2

9

0

4

5

6

8

0434

FRIENDS SERVICE COUNCIL - Journal letter No.4 from Wm. G. Sewell -
Chongking, 23.11.41.

This summer has been the first I have spent in Chengtu. It has been an experience well worth having. Only for about a week was the heat excessive, and then during the day the temperature rose to a trifle over ninety-five degrees, although at night it did not drop much below ninety. I had expected to find that I should have plenty of spare time, but instead life seemed to be just as busy as during the term. Many students remained in their hostels as they were refugees from other provinces, and even for local people travel is difficult in war time. In the Chemistry Department investigations went on as usual, though I tried to spend only my mornings there. Evenings we did try to keep free, and many of these I shared with my Canadian colleagues, Roy Spooner and his wife, whose friendship during this year of absence from my family is something I shall never forget. Johanne Madsen, during her time in Chengtu, also lived with the Spooners, and their home became something of a Friends Centre and for me much more my home than the rather empty shell in which I slept.

The Spooners' three children are about the same ages as our own, and I was able to appreciate very fully the responsibility of parents during air raids. Although the rising cost of living and difficulties of war made a number of people decide not to go to the hills this year, I think those with small children regretted it as alarms and raids were frequent. Chengtu, unlike Chungking, has no good dugouts in rock, as it is a city built on a sandy plain with water only a few feet down. Consequently when alarms come the only thing is to scatter in the country. People go out in their thousands when the yellow flag is hoisted, and it is pathetic to see them with their few most valued possessions trudging out among the rice fields. The mothers with little babies and the old folk frequently stay at home as the strain is too great for them, and gradually if there are no air raids others too get slack.

That was what happened on Sunday, July 27th. People had got careless and the day was very hot and sunny so many of them remained at home. About noon 108 Japanese planes, in three groups of 36 each, flew in perfect formation over the city. First one group let all its bombs fall simultaneously; and then a few minutes later the second group were over the city and they released theirs. A few minutes after that there was the scream of falling bombs, the explosions and the rocking earth from the third group. The planes, without any interruption, then flew off, still keeping their formation. The dust from the city rose in great clouds, which boiled up and out over the walls for the next twenty minutes. Few streets in the main sections had not been peppered, though happily with light bombs and not incendiaries. How many thousands were killed has never been disclosed, even if it is known. The bodies were left out in the streets, and then confined where they lay. Many, many, of these coffins were pathetically small. Everywhere one could see the little groups of mourners, burning their incense, prostrate before the coffins, until what remained of those they loved was taken off by the carriers to the burying places outside the city walls. The weather was so hot, and so many of the bodies were undiscovered in the ruins, that the smell became intolerable, and those who could sought refuge with their friends outside the bombed areas. For a week the wife of the manager of one of the banks and her little child, were living with me.

In August a new technique of raids was adopted by the Japanese, and there were six or seven alarms throughout the day which usually did not materialise as far as Chengtu was concerned. This meant that the population was kept away from home, cooking became a problem, sleep a difficulty. It seemed that life would become demoralised, when happily the weather changed and we obtained relief.

One cloudy day we had a raid from a few planes and as usual the Chinese planes were up lest they should be machine gunned and destroyed upon the ground. The pilot of one Chinese plane, coming out of the clouds saw another group of Chinese planes below him, and thinking them to be Japanese flew straight into one and cut it in two. With a dizzy, sickening spin the two Chinese planes came down, and as I watched from my garden I could see one of the pilots jump out. Poor fellow; his parachute caught on a wire by the wall and he was shot by his own countrymen. The Chinese are not at their best in the air, and it is a pity they have wasted so many lives and so much money which might have been used more effectively in other ways. It is also pathetic the people hope against hope that American airmen will come and give them the protection and help they cannot get from their own countrymen.

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

11/23/42.

~~One of my students~~ lost in a crash, a friend who was a pilot; and he went to console the widow. He discovered with amazement that she did not know what had happened to her husband. "Wait a little while", she told him when he got there, "he will soon be home." The student did not like to tell her and instead she got a telegram supposedly from her husband to say he had been transferred to the north-east. It may be months before she learns the truth; but in a land where no one likes to tell facts which may hurt, it is one way of breaking news gently.

One of the happy events at the end of the summer was the opening of the new Chemistry Building, which has been called "The Stubbs Memorial." The work of the Chemistry Department has so developed that new accommodation was desirable, but when our refugee guests arrived it was imperative. The new building is erected jointly by the West China University, the University of Nanking, Ginling Women's College and Cheeloo University, who are also assisted by a grant from the Associated Boards in New York. It is one of the finest buildings on the Campus, and thanks largely to the energy of Professor Spooner it is fitted out in a way which is almost miraculous for war time China. Sinks have been carved from local stone; drains made from local lead. He has searched the markets for water pipes; and the taps have been made by local coppermiths. The lecture room is well designed for sight and sound, and the labs are spacious and bright. The library, where chairs all bear the name of "C.M. Stubbs", will seat seventy-two students and is one of the best rooms in the building. Incidentally it is one of the most frequented as books have become so valuable that they now have to be read in the room and not removed.

At the time of the opening we christened the building by inviting the Chinese Chemical Society to hold their annual meeting there. It was the first time they had gathered in Chengtu. So when General Chiang Ch'uan, the chairman of the Provincial Government, opened the building he did so before a distinguished company. It was an obvious encouragement to all to see this new building, so well built and equipped, which had been erected at a time when so much else in China is being broken down by bombs.

Much of my time is occupied as Head of the Chemistry Department, and also with the work on Indigo which we are doing for the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry. Three young men and two women who are working with me have, I feel, done excellent preliminary work which will prepare the way for still more fruitful experiments next year. We have been trying to discover why the Szechwanese indigo is so poor in quality and believe we have found not only the reason but also the means of remedying it.

When I was in Chungking I went with my colleague, Liao Hung-ying, to report to the Ministry, and found it a most interesting example of the great difficulties under which work is being carried on. We left the place where I was staying at 8 a.m. and took bus to the city office of the Ministry where an official was kindly waiting to escort us. He took us by rickshaw, by bus, and then we were carried up along the hills for seven miles in sedan chairs, so that it was 2 p.m. before we arrived. We had an hour's conference, half an hour for a meal and then returned, arriving back at my home at 9 p.m. The whole day had been spent for one hour's interview. Under such difficulties it is only a simply organised agricultural country, devoid of many of the complexities of life in the West, that can manage to continue. China is so large, and so many people live on the land that she can defy Japanese efforts to bring her to her knees.

One of the major problems confronting all who live in West China is the rising cost of living. For students it is specially hard. In 1937 their board for one term cost twenty dollars; but now it is up almost to six hundred. Under these circumstances I wondered if we should get many students able to come to us; but it has been amazing to discover that our numbers are higher than ever. It is true that farmers, landowners, labourers and many merchants are able to weather the storm, and that it is the salaried classes like teachers, who are hardest hit. Those students who come from other provinces have special help given them by the Government, and student relief (inadequate though it may be) is available in one form or another.

The entrance examinations started one morning in the summer, and a heavy thunder storm broke before dawn. I was on duty in one of the many rooms used at the first session which, because of raids, started at 6 a.m. Nearly a thousand students came, and I have never seen so many rickshaws drawn up in the lake which soon formed on the Campus. Most of the students were wet through; but there was nothing for it but for them to sit through the examination in their soaking clothes, though most did discard shoes and stockings. The wonder to me was not that the standard of

0436

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

answers was low, but that under those conditions it was as high as it was.

Partly as a result of the high cost of living and deterioration in the quality of the food the students eat, and partly as a result of overcrowding and the use of double decker beds, the general health of the men and women is giving cause for alarm. Over 3%, or about sixty, have active TB, while others are urgently in need of care to prevent the disease developing. Happily a special grant has been made from relief funds to aid the TB student.

Harry T. Silcock, a former Vice-President of the University, has been visiting Szechwan from the Shanghai Friends Centre and has greatly encouraged us. A full account of the visit appears elsewhere but it will not be out of place to mention some incidents which will help to give a picture of life in Free China. A small group met in a temple at Kwanhsien as a preliminary gathering to discuss Quaker policy together, and later a larger group was held at Tungliang, near Chungking. The temple we stayed in at Kwanhsien is normally used by foreigners as a summer resort, but now it is the home of wealthy Chinese refugees seeking safety from air raids. They have installed a telephone and a post box; they are running a school for their children, for which they have secured a Christian teacher ("as she is so much more reliable and really loves the children"). They run a clinic for the poor and needy and are themselves paying for a nurse. With extraordinary hospitality one Chinese business man who had a cook for foreign food gave Harry Silcock and myself western food at every meal and would take nothing in return. Up there on the hills there was Indian tea, coffee, curry and tinned goods, the like of which we have forgotten in Chengtu.

We travelled to and from Kwanhsien in one of those buses which David Paton calls "the most degraded instruments of transport you have ever seen". Going, we arrived at the Chengtu bus station at 7 a.m., but the contraption could not be persuaded to start until after midday. It crawled along at about twelve miles an hour until we got near Kwanhsien, when the charcoal gave out. The passengers who were crammed inside expanded for awhile as the driver had to walk to the terminus and bring back more fuel, which then had to be heated in the patent burner before we could conclude our journey. On our return it was almost as bad, but this time a tyre burst, and we spent the day stranded by the roadside until help came and a new wheel was fixed. By that time it was raining heavily, our luggage (which was tied on top) was soaked, and water streamed in through the roof, but we felt contented as we moved towards Chengtu.

The wear and tear is very heavy and after four years of wear tyres cannot easily be replaced, nor are spare parts available. One of the sights by the road between Chengtu and Chungking are the hundreds of derelict cars, their tyres removed, and their engines pulled apart to repair some other machine. The journey down this road to Tungliang we happily undertook on a Post Office truck. The first day I rode on the mail bags. It was uncomfortable rather than perilous and my body was sore for days. Every part was crudly massaged and exercised, and afterwards it hurt to move either head or limbs, to cough, or bend or turn. On the second day, Liao Hung-ying, who was with me, insisted on changing. She rode on the bags but, as she said, a bus is to her as a rocking cradle to an infant, and she slept happily despite the racket. I couldn't sleep even though seated in the cab, as a Chinese neighbour slept soundly, leaning on my sore body. The only relief came for me when a sharp curve in the right direction would cause his body to be thrown away from me, frequently dashing his head on the wooden door, and giving him a few moments disturbance in his sound sleep.

The nights away from home were varied. The Kwanhsien temple was holiday-like and pleasant, despite an unkind rat which ate my pullover. But on the way to Tung-liang we had one night in a school and had to pay for our bed by speaking to the children. Another night we spent in a church as all the inns were full; but there my companion had a troubled night though she apologetically assured me that the bed bug which disturbed her was "only a little one." With Harry Silcock, Horace Holder and an American girl who was travelling our way we had another night in a small village which has become an important bus junction. Every inn was full. Dead tired, we paraded the streets until a post office official kindly let us have his office. We spread our blankets on the floor draped our mosquito nets on our umbrellas and would have fared better but for the rats which over-ran the place, and the fact that Holder discovered he could sleep better in a chair. So many people are travelling that both buses and inns are quite inadequate, and often it is days or weeks before one can get a place.

All along the main road there are signs of great activity. Factories are springing up, tall grey chimneys appear on the landscape. Embankments, cuttings, bridges are being built for the new railway. In some places only the rails are needed so that one can imagine without effort the train speed-

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

11/23/41

4.

ing between Chengtu and Chungking when the war is over. Is it because of the war we wondered, that the people seemed more alert than the Szechwanese of four years ago? Especially we seemed to notice the girl guides; their smart clothes, short skirts, clean bare legs and knees, and bright intelligent smiling faces were a joy to behold. In almost every village was the sign: "Good sons become soldiers and kill the enemy."

The meetings at Tungliang will never be forgotten by most of the eight Chinese and eight foreigners who attended them. They were a time of real strenuous thought and effort, while frankly we faced the difficulties confronting Friends in China; and there were lighter moments too. It has now become the custom to close meetings with the shouting of slogans. The company rises and with raised arms shouts this or that as directed by the leader. "Long live the Generalissimo". "Success to the democracies." It was proved that even a Quaker gathering could end in this way, and in the company of the mayor and leading citizens we shouted lustily in the peaceful garden around the Walkers' bungalow where we met. "May the memory of George Fox never fade," and "May the people of the world be reconciled" are not impossible, but for me, if I wanted a slogan, I would cry with Paul, "Wherefore, sirs, be of good cheer for I believe God". One has to say that only half a dozen times to be on top of the whole world.

After Tungliang came a visit to Chungking en route to Hongkong where I was to meet my family. Even more of the city is destroyed than when I was there a year ago. Also there seems to be more of a spirit of desolation. I stayed a night or two with F.L. Yang, the headmaster of the Friends High School. The school had been badly bombed, but with courage and enthusiasm Mr. Yang set about repairing the damage at once. I always leave the school with a mixture of admiration for the headmaster, and of regret that for one reason and another Friends are unable to give him the support and encouragement he should have.

One incident impressed me greatly. I visited the Foreign Minister, Mr. Kue Tai-chi, who was Ambassador in London and he told me that he had heard that American ships were being withdrawn from the Pacific. Later during the day I had a telephone call. It was from the Minister who, knowing my anxiety about my family, wanted to tell me that the news about American ships had been officially denied. That a Foreign Minister should think in this way of someone like myself was very humbling; the Chinese have a greatness and a courtesy shown by few other people.

At the beginning of November, Horace Holder, who is now on the way to England, and I flew down to Hongkong and had a beautiful 4½ hour trip in the moonlight. I am still in Hongkong waiting for the family as the great tension in the Far East had made the movements of their ship uncertain, though I know they have left California several weeks ago. It will be a relief to get them safely to West China.

About Hong Kong there is much that I could say. Life has for me become quite a busy round of visits to friends, new and old. There are lectures to be given and articles to be written; and of course all the time there are new impressions to be absorbed. Hong Kong is a place without a clearly defined future, though a new factor which holds interesting possibilities has emerged as a result of industrial developments which will almost certainly continue as a permanent feature after the war. The westerners are, however, here only to make money and return to their homelands. The Chinese also do not really belong. Eurasia tosses restlessly between two worlds. Chinese millionaires have sought safety here, but they seem to have little sense of responsibility as to the use of their wealth. The streets are thronged with handsome young men and lovely girls, laughing and talking. Perhaps nowhere is there such physical beauty as in Hong Kong. As I watch them, as I read the papers, as I think of the struggle in China itself, of the long drawn-out war, and what will be left when it is all over, I feel that above all else there is need in China (as elsewhere) not for people who are smart and clever, but for people who are good, and kind, and honest. It needs the driving power of the Christian faith if this is to come to pass, for there is nothing else in China with the power to transform men's lives.

WM. G. SEWELL.

(The only news we have since this letter is a cable from West China saying that the Sewell family were "reunited in Hongkong", so presumably, failing other news, we think they must still be there. All of us who receive these Journal letters from W.G.S. will have the family very much in our thought and prayer these days.) (A.M.)

AM/JML
6.1.42.

2
9
0
4
5
6
8

0438