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Spooner, Roy C. 1942-1944

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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

CHENG TU, SICHUAN

August 8, 1942

Dear Mr. Evans ;

I have been thinking that if this letter takes as long to arrive home as did our Canadian Christmas letters of 1941, that I had better put my Christmas Greetings in this letter, written as it is in the heat and moisture of a Chengtu August. It has been hot, and all who could afford it are off to the mountains. We were not in this class but hoped to get away for a little while. However, my appendix came out on the evening of Graduation Day so that so far, I have not been able to get away. In any case, the best of Christmas Greetings to you, to Oliver, Dr. Garside and other friends in the office.

I have received no acknowledgment that my letter of November 11, 1941 was received in New York. I asked in that letter that the photoprints of two articles be secured for me from the Bibliofilm Service, c/o Library, U.S. Dept. of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. Although these are bulkier than are the microfilms, yet due to difficulty of projecting the latter, they are much more convenient. Could they be folded into a large envelope and forwarded to Chengtu? I need them for research work which we are doing in the department. Titles are as follows.

1. Yoshida, Chemistry of Lacquer, J. Chem. Soc. 1883, pg. 472-486.
2. Tschirch & Stevens; Japanese Lacquer, Mon. Science, 1906, pg. 731-760

Later I may be writing about other articles which are also urgently required.

You will be glad to know that some of the freight which went out with Dr. Dye and was stuck in Rangoon and Lashio has now arrived. It has been brought in by the Friends Ambulance Unit who in addition to medical activities are doing trucking service from the Burma border to as far north as Hsingnan. We certainly welcome these goods as they come in for they are literally worth their weight in gold. And they represent the last foreign goods which can arrive until after the war, whenever that will be.

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Yenching is getting established and while keeping their separate entity in administration and first year work will put their 2, 3 and 4th year students into West China classes or those of other universities. We have not arrived at organic union up here, but we are as close to real co-operation as it is possible under present conditions. Folk at home are talking of what about the Peace and I have been ordering with respect to the Christian universities in China.. "what about after the Japanese leave?" Can we support eleven or perhaps only four or five of the present ones?

Mrs. Spooner has been well, although even busier than her husband, teaching in the Mother's School for the younger children and trying to run our household on our present reduced budget. The children are flourishing although young Norah has had some sort of illness most of the summer.

With best wishes

Ray C. Spooner

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and typing out for ready use.

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUATAI"

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marked passages copied for use in China College Booklet

File - acctd. 10/18/40 along with letter of later date.

CHENGDU, SZECHWAN

August 9, 1942

CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

Dear Oliver ;

I saw Imogene and Douglas Sargeant going by past my windows in the Stubbs Memorial this afternoon and that turned my thoughts to you and New York City where once upon a time , we both saw Imogene off to go home to the country . I remember that you walked across street intersections regardless of red lights while Imogene and I , nervously tried to keep up with you . You must bear a charmed life for I take it that you are still going strong ! and that your habits have not changed !!

They just arrived yesterday from Chungking .. other details I have not learnt as yet . Let me go over some of your letters and mentions the points as they come . 1. Tu Shu-dung ; wants badly to get home next summer . I enclose a set of letters for Oberlin College . The application forms and whatnot that you mentioned forwarding last year have not arrived . If you can forward his application to Oberlin and ask them to reply to you so that you can reforward to us , it will be more satisfactory than we writing direct to them . Tu is not an official candidate from the university , but he has the approval of the President and we have no one else ready in chemistry . He has independent means of support but must have a scholarship in order to secure passport from Chinese Govt. as they have this new regulation . In a week or so , we will forward duplicate application forms for Hamilton , although Tu prefers Oberlin for it has superior facilities in chemistry . Tu was criticised by Bill Fenn as being too specialised .. his interests not broad enough . I agree and for that reason wish him to get into a smaller private university or college where he will be forced to meet and do things outside in company with American^s rather than with a small group of Chinese , as at Michigan or MIT etc. But he is keen .. works like the devil and has the family and position to push him on when he returns . He is also generous and has been helping one of his class-mates , ill with TB in a remarkable manner . He has worked closely with me these two years since his graduation and is worth going home . English excellent and contrary to some-- he hears and speaks better than he writes .

2. I have sent another issue of College of Science Newsletter home per recent letter to Mr. Evans , asking him to give to you . Also asked him re two articles to secure photoprints and forward . If this letter has not arrived, will you please let me know , (dated August 8.)

3. Photographs .. I believe that Gordon Agnew is delegated to secure them for you .. however, I shall from time to time send those on, which come to hand . We are almost out of films and printing paper, so prices are indeed exorbitant . Mail is also very much of a question . It is expensive and one never knows just what is going to get through and what not. However, mail of all types continues to get through, although ordinary mail is taking 6 months from Canada .
to us,

4. No news of Sewell and family . I shudder to think of their family spending this summer in a concentration camp in Hongkong . Let us hope that they may be repatriated shortly for they are noncombatants . We miss him so badly up here . As you know his research programme into natural dyestuffs , especially indigo was approved by the government . I had to take it over when he was detained . This year the grant has been renewed and I am still carrying on . Our results to date are very interesting and may be of great value to the province

Handwritten notes in left margin:
O.C. ...
Oberlin Director
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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

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CHEMISTRY DEPARTMENT

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CHENGDU, SICHUAN

5. Our College of Science has made real progress, I believe this last year. Our staff is being increased in numbers, noticeably with the addition of the Hos, Dr. Bill who ~~is one of our staff~~ abroad for seven years, trained at Iowa State in Agriculture and Dr. Florence, who went with him and has her degree in Household Science. Hence a new department starting up of H. Ec. and Bill Ho has a Research Institute in Agriculture.

6. Freight is still coming through.. most of the stuff that was in Rangoon managed to get out due to the stalwart efforts of the Friends Ambulance Unit. They worked right up until the Japs were in the city moving things away up the Burma road and at one time, with the road cut.. they had to wait for a tank escort to go with them to run the gauntlet. They got out. There is a real story that needs to be told, just of the men and machines who have been steadily, bringing cargo into China. One of our boxes came in two weeks ago from AH Thomas and looked in perfect condition. Well marked, with big clear numbers put on it. And when opened everything, mostly glass, was unbroken. Agnew's several tons of stuff has had to be dumped in India and stay until we can get back the Burma road. I would hope that this fall would see the attempt made, especially if the Russians can finally hold ~~the~~ the oil-fields.

7. Union of the various universities here is still some distance off. Yenching has arrived and is located at the MM Girl's School at Shan Hsi Kai opposite the Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hospital. They are co-operating closely with West China for two reasons... first they have very few staff and second most of our ~~senior~~ men are Yenching graduates and so very sympathetic. At first sight it seemed a shame that the fifth unit should be set up here, but after all if Cheeloo and Ginling have a separate existence why shouldn't Yenching which is perhaps our best-known university? Our new building is grand.. but we are *The Stubbs Memorial* already over-crowded. The attic is being used and every room downstairs. If we knew definitely just how long the universities would be here,, there might be agitation for another small building to house just Physics.

8. Swen Ming-ching and his capable wife have become very good friends of ours. She is working on a project to make X-ray films out of local materials. All her work has been done in our department, by support of the Hospital. We have put her project up to Bachman the China representative of the China Medical Aid group and hope to have support continued for 1942-43. He has very ambitious schemes for our medical and dental work about which doubtless others have written to you. Swen is first-rate and knows his stuff. He has enthusiasm and willingness to go ahead on his own. He has an able supporter in Dean Wei, who impresses me as one of the most capable of the entire Nanking staff. Wish we had him!

9. I am so glad that John Kao has obtained (has he not,) his final degree. With this, there should be no feeling of inferiority complex (if there ever was any?) left in him. If we can hold him when he comes back, we should be able to do good work in industrial chemistry. What wouldn't I give to have Sewell and John both back here next fall. We continue to see Kimmie, his wife and his two fine boys. She is also keen to come home..but it is a bit more difficult to justify a married woman coming although she has a scholarship at Toronto.

Sincerely
Ray Spooner

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West China Union University,
Chengtu, China,
August 15, 19 42.

Dear Friends:

Air mail letters from home have once more begun to arrive. So we are encouraged to hope that this letter may reach home in the not too distant future. We owe a real debt of gratitude to Dr. Fallis and the efficient work of our church secretary in sending copies to our friends.

Our last date of writing was September 1941. What a change there has been in the world situation since then, especially in the Far East! Pearl Harbor, Hongkong, Singapore, Java, Rangoon, Mandalay and Corregidor, - what a list of disasters, with a vivid lesson for ourselves and our Chinese friends of the weakness of the United Nations and their military forces! You, at home, will have fuller reports on all these battles than we have had, but we have been privileged to meet some of the men who were in the Hongkong and Burma battles. The comment of one Australian from the British Embassy was "that he did not see why he should have to come and fight for the Malay and Burma people when they were not willing to fight for themselves". From their comments it is evident that once war was declared these defeats were inevitable due to lack of men, planes and supplies. The only wonder is how we managed to bluff the Japanese so long.

For the Chinese, this period has been even more bewildering. To them, the coming into the war of U.S.A and Great Britain meant a hope for ending the China "incident". Their interest is not in Europe but in China where they have been fighting spasmodically for five years now. Yet, in spite of the loss of Burma and the closing of the Burma Road (the only important artery of traffic left to them) their courage is as high as ever. If we can give them air superiority over the Japanese and some aid with supplies, they will keep the Nips busy enough here in China. Just the fact that they control Changsha and so make it impossible for the enemy troops to go by rail from North China to Canton and then continue to Saigon or Siam, involves a large number of transports and means fewer boats for the ventures in the South Seas.

In the meantime our local difficulties have been aggravated by the continued rise in the cost of living. A year ago, our index stood at 1800, today it has reached 3300. This phenomenal rise especially affects the "white collar" class, those living on fixed incomes. Many of our university group now receive less than does a strong active rickshaw coolie whose prices have slipped upwards in company with the rising cost of living. All of our universities face a crisis in our financing for next year. In our mission work, educational and evangelistic work has been reduced, to the lowest possible minimum. It is all the more tragic, since, as the present time, conditions have never been more favourable for Christian work. All traces of anti-foreign and anti-Christian feeling of a few years ago has disappeared.

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Aug. 15/1942 - page 2.

One of the odd features about the present financial situation is that the government has fixed the foreign exchange at an abnormally low rate, much below what should be the case. That is, as the Chinese dollar is deflated by the additional printing of paper currency, the value of the gold dollar should increase and so allow the missions or universities depending upon foreign money to secure increased amounts of local money, so helping to meet the increased costs. But with this fixed rate of exchange, this is denied. If I wished to buy a new bicycle from a local shop, I should have to pay twenty thousand dollars which at the fixed exchange rate is equivalent to one thousand dollars of Canadian money. "Life" now sells here for the equivalent of a dollar and a half in Canadian currency. And the brand new copy costs ten cents, does it not? Other prices of interest, expressed in Canadian currency are, sugar, dark brown in colour 0.80 /lb; eggs 0.75 dozen, locally made washing soap, 0.35 small bar. Lux, Shanghai made, 0.90 cake.

One of the most direct results of this high cost of living is financial distress among students generally. Especially is this true among the students from the occupied areas, whether in China or the South Seas. They are cut off entirely from their families and in some cases, have had no word for one or two years. The Government grants subsidies to this type of student but their grant is far from adequate. To about four hundred of the neediest and worthiest of this group, our student relief committee gives \$25.00 /month (Can. 1.50) But to a much larger group, work relief is given. The technique is for the committee to start a project such as the gardening or goat project, by providing the initial expenses, then assigning students to do the work paying them so much an hour. The products of the project, such as the vegetables raised or the goat milk sold for what it can bring. Any loss on the project is also taken care of by the committee. Part of the goat milk is supplied at cost to the students in the special T.B. student's ward. There is also a labor Corp. doing various types of manual work and as well, a large group doing various types of clerical work as typing translation, teaching Chinese or English, caring for children, shopping or even knitting. Lower standards of nutrition for the student dormitories mean more illness. Crowding of students, eight in a room that should hold one or two, also means decreased vitality. As palliatives, a bean-milk project is being pushed which will supply bean-milk, reinforced with some calcium and other mineral matter at cost to below-par students. Cows milk is very scarce and very expensive. Often what you buy is half water and every drop must be boiled before drinking. But bean-milk is a local product and compares favourably with cows milk. Grants are also given for X-Rays, medicine and expenses for necessary operations. Money for these services has come from many sources but largely from gifts of American students.

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Aug. 15, 1942 - page 3

Some of you have asked about the work of our Department of Chemistry so I am giving a few figures. We are fortunate that we have the use of a new building. Although, at present, we share this with the Departments of Chemistry of the other three universities now refugeeing here, it will be for our own use after the war. It is 185 feet long with three floors plus an attic. The three extensions towards the back give a breadth of about 85 feet. There are six classrooms of various sizes, in addition to a large library and stockroom on the topmost floor. Laboratories are on a correspondingly generous scale. We have tried to look ahead and anticipate the needs of the university in 1956. At present we have sixteen members on the staff, giving each year some twenty odd courses, to a university student enrollment of around three hundred and fifty. Students majoring in the department number approximately thirty five. This spring we had three graduates, all Christians and outstanding for their personality and ability. One is a girl from Fujien whose father is in government service, another is the son of a famous professor of pathology, while the third is a Szechwanese whose family has strong military connections. All are hoping to go abroad, indeed the girl may be awarded a scholarship to Vassar.

We have been trying to carry on the high teaching standards set by Dr. Clifford Stubbs in all our fundamental courses, many of which are for students of medicine, dentistry or pharmacy. In addition we are developing specialised courses in dyeing, tanning and biochemistry to give students if they select some specific training before they leave the university. With the return of one of our men from M.I.T. we hope to add further work in industrial chemistry. Research work of the department in general follows the emphasis mentioned above, although this is not a hard and fast rule. For example, we expect that the next issue of the Chinese Chemical Journal will have four papers from the department, one on tanning, one on native indigo, another on native soapnuts, while the fourth deals with locally-produced gums.

The Ministry of Education under which is placed all technical and university grade education, has been tightening its control, and compels us to follow their standard curriculum if our graduates are to be recognised and approved. There is some slight leeway allowed but not as much as we would wish. In addition they are now ranking all university staff, as to whether they are eligible to be classed as professor, associate professor, etc. Doubtless the next step will be preparation of standard textbooks and government examiners. Some of these regulations are badly needed for university standards vary widely from one university to another. Our Christian universities have nothing to fear from such detailed examinations. But, if these requirements are harshly interpreted, they can be destructive to free, creative work and so prevent progress in university education.

We are again spending our summer on the campus instead of getting away to the cool mountains, as had been our custom

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Aug. 15, 1942 - page 4.

before the present increase in cost of living. However, David and Hilary had six weeks down in Janshow, where although it was no cooler than Chengtu, yet the children enjoyed the freedom of the beautiful compound with its waterfalls (after a rain) and valley-sides. Roy had an acute attack of appendicitis and spent Graduation Day in the hospital being made ready for an emergency operation that evening. Convalescence has been slow and the doctors are prescribing less teaching and administrative work this fall. Norah has also had a hard summer for she has been ill, what with one thing and another, for almost two months. However, Kathleen has stayed well and as long as mother is well....there is hope for the family!

We wish to acknowledge letters from Harold Sutton, Fran and Athelie, Ross Spooner, Mrs. N. Powell, Albert and Marge, Cliff K. the Tovell Auxiliary, Mrs. W. J. Jackson, Nancy Clare and Mary Ellen, which have arrived during the last few months. To all we promise replies sometime in the future but please do not embarrass us by asking us "when"? At present we have our mantle-piece covered with Christmas cards which have just arrived, and we secure just as much fun from them as if they had arrived last December. One feels so very much out of touch with home conditions and friends there and these cards and letters help so greatly in this respect. Already we are looking forward to our after-the-war furlough in 1946.

To you all, we send our Christmas greetings for 1942. We hope to write again this fall but if conditions prevent that letter from arriving before December 25th. please think of us on Christmas Day as we shall be remembering you. So a Merry Christmas to you!

Roy and Kathleen Spooner

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THE STUBBS MEMORIAL

"Beautiful and firm rises the Stubbs Memorial Building in
the midst of the University campus
On the right is the clock tower, in front the flowing stream,
What a surpassing location!
A memorial raised to a former sage, whose spirit endures forever,
his mental strife, his weighty thought!
Famous teachers and brilliant students crowd into the Hall,
cherishing the same ideals."

Such are the feelings inspired by the sight of this beautiful new building named after Dr. Clifford Stubbs, the Quaker chemist from New Zealand who gave himself to the service of West China. Dr. Stubbs won the 1851 Exhibition Research Scholarship which took him to England where he did brilliant work in physical chemistry to win his doctor's degree. But China and her needs appealed to him and so he was sent by the English Society of Friends to Chengtu, Szechwan in 1913 and here worked in the creation of the West China Union University, a Christian University built beside the foothills which lead to the snow-capped mountains of Tibet.

Dr. Stubbs built for the future by putting himself into his students, into their mental, moral and professional training. He had a deep concern in building friendship between China and the Anglo-Saxon countries. His life was a Christian one and when he was murdered, one evening on the campus in 1930, so deep and sharp was the loss that even to today it is remembered by his colleagues and former students. The campus became hushed and it was days before it regained its normal atmosphere.

In 1938, with the welcoming to the West China Union University campus of the three refugee Christian universities, Nanking, Ginling and Cheeloo, the need for expanded quarters for the teaching of chemistry became urgent. Through the generosity of friends in America subscribing to the Emergency Campaign of the Associated China Colleges, and the co-operation of the four campus universities in assigning funds, this new building was erected. In deep appreciation it was named after Dr. Stubbs to commemorate his great contribution to China. It was a symbol of faith in the China to be, - after-the-War. Today in 1942, after two years of use, it is filled to overflowing with students eagerly preparing themselves to serve China. To visit the Science Branch Library housed in this building on an evening and see every chair filled with students busy working, is an experience!

The Stubbs Memorial is a memorial to a man who believed in co-operation; its erection was made possible by co-operation and now its use jointly by the four departments of chemistry has carried out this ideal. After the War, it will offer splendid quarters to the Department of Chemistry of West China Union University which badly

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needs expanded quarters to do its work, not only to train chemists but also to give essential courses to all those taking medical, dental, nursing, pharmacy, household science, agricultural and other science subjects. In 1937, Szechwan with its seventy million people was an agricultural province, with no modern chemical factories. Today, Szechwan and the border regions adjacent to it are chemically alive and on the great resources of salt, sugar, coal, iron, raw hides, lime, asbestos, copper, etc. is building a society based on modern chemical industry.

Is it then any wonder that a fourth year student of West China Union University was inspired to compose this poem! So, the influence and inspiration of the life of Clifford Stubbs, throughout the years to come, will be continually surrounding our students as they do their work in the chemical laboratories and through them influencing the New China. Truly

"A memorial raised to a former sage, whose spirit endures forever, his mental strife, his weighty thought'. Famous teachers and brilliant students crowd into the Hall cherishing the same ideals."

November 1942

Roy C. Spooner

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P. Just saw Dr. Knights and he said tell people in New York to consider sending a few ounces to Chengtu Hospital as richest source of Vit. D. equal to gallons of Haliveroil. Could it come with Madame Chiang on her return? Please inquire and let me know. RCS

TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUATA" of "Calciferol"

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN

Dec. 13, 1942

Mr. Oliver Caldwell
Associated Boards for Christian
Colleges in China
150 Fifth Ave. New York City

Dear Oliver;

I am hoping to send this note by a friend and if it is lucky enough to go, you will receive this a bit earlier than would otherwise be the case. Both Kathleen and I send you our warmest Christmas greetings and wishes for the New Year. One wonders if the change during 1943 will be as great as it has been during 1942.

I am enclosing these papers from Tu Shu Dung, about whom you wrote in your letter of October 10th. He is delighted with the prospect of going to Oberlin and if you would forward his letter to Dean Wittke and the application forms, asking the Dean to reply through you, we would appreciate it. Otherwise there is always the chance that letters going through smaller postoffices where the routine for China mail is not understood, may be sent the slow route. We need the definite acceptance by Oberlin of Mr. Tu as a graduate student and their statement that a tuition scholarship will be available before we can approach the Chinese Government for permission for him to leave the country. Of course, travel at present is difficult but one never knows what may open up before the summer. Tu has had two years of teaching and is ready to get abroad now.

What is news of John Kao? After our answer to the cable of last August we have had no further details. We need to know so as to plan for the spring term when we are counting on him to be here to help us. I think that it is important for him to be back here working for a year under war conditions in order to be emotionally and psychologically adjusted to the conditions as they will be after the War. I note that many returning people, especially the older group, take several years to again find their places in our constantly accelerated group life. Tension has increased with the increasing enrollment in addition to the adjustments made necessary by our present crowded condition. Yenching, in itself has received a royal welcome from us, especially West China, but its arrival has increased the competition and some of the results have not been too good. For example, when they wished to arrange for medical supervision of their students, they invited the National Central C. of Medicine to take charge, although right across the road was a modern hospital under the control of the West China and Cheeloo groups, with whom previously National Central had been co-operating until they pulled out of their own free-will and started competitive hospital practice almost beside our own hospital. Then they asked that Nat. Central be allowed to use the facilities of our hospital to treat their students! But on the whole Dr. Meh and especially Ralph Bapwood have been very co-operative and things now are quite harmonious. Our Department is treating Yenching students as our own and offering all facilities to them. We are investigating the chances of even closer co-operation.

But campus life is feverish. The visitors on the campus from the various air groups and from the embassies in Chungking come here for a rest and social entertainment but we who live here, have to work at providing this for them.

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Prospective breakdowns are looming up on the not-too-distant horizon . But at the present , as long as one's health continues it is a fascinating life .

We enjoyed the visit of the Parliamentary Mission and were especially taken with the personality of J.J.Losson the Labor man . The two Lords were rather fagged by the strenuous welcome that they had received in their various places of call . We heard that one day in Sian , they were up at six to see a parade and were on the go until eleven that evening . Lord Teviot was well over sixty . Their attitudes were very refreshing and not at all the routine stuff . Emphasis on the kind of England which was now coming into being and its future after the war were especially prominent . By contrast Wendell Wilkie's visit was like a whirlwind for he came in one day , with his customary lack of ~~social~~ , rather disregard of the tedious formalities , made his short speech in which he said that his mission was to consult with the Generalissimo on how the average man could secure peace , freedom and security . It made us realise just how much difference there is between the aims of various governments for here in China we do not hear too much emphasis on the concerns of the average man .

We seem to be greatly concerned with buildings . Four to be erected in the not too distant future are slated for discussion . The most urgent is the central block of the Medical-Dental Bldg. which has been granted certain sums of money for its erection but each time , in the delay between making the estimate and the securing of the money , ^{rising} costs have put a wide gap between these two figures . Yen-ching is now suggesting that they pay for the furnishing , rather the completion of the inside furnishings of a floor of the building in return for us putting up the shell and allowing them to use this floor for the duration . In addition , the Government has granted money to put up a small building to one side of the Clock Tower , so beginning the quadrangle which is to be built there according to the original architect's plans . It is to be used by the Student's Three Principles of the Youth Corp Movement . In addition , with the gift of Minister Chang Chia Ngau's fifty thousand dollars as a starter , the university is trying to raise another two hundred thousand dollars to build staff residences , so badly needed in the midst of this housing shortage . I have had an offer from a well-known professor to teach in our department , half-time for nothing if we can secure him a house .

Local prices are crazy ... no question about it . The cost of living index is now over fifty times the 1937 figures . It is even worse , I hear in some other parts . Eggs are twelve cents each , bicycles are well over one thousand dollars , bread on the street is selling for close to one dollar a loaf . Board on the campus , and this is much restricted as compared to the days when you were here , is about three dollars a day , but will soon be more . These prices are in USA but are even higher for those of us paid from Canadian sources as our exchange is lower . In an endeavour to help cover the cost of living and also to help visitors and members of the RAF , we have had twelve or thirteen people sitting down to noon meals with us , of whom four are Spoonsers , the others being visitors or guests .

But opportunities are certainly here with us . We have an interesting cross-section of students from all parts of Asia , even to one from Sian who speaks no Chinese whatsoever . Many of these are desperately hardup , others seem untouched by the cost of living . But it is time to get other letters written before it is time for Sunday dinner . I am in the new Stubbs Memorial and enjoying the warm sunlight of the rarely seen December sun . Hilary and Morah are playing beside me , writing letters to Santa Claus who arrives , without fail on Monday Dec.21 for our children's party . Many thanks for your help with Tu and good wishes to you and your wife .

P.S. Please note you have
OR have sent to Oberlin letters
of recommendation for Tu. Please
Mention these in your letter to Oberlin.

Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: HUA

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN

Dec. 26, 1942

Mr. Oliver Caldwell
Associated Boards
150 Fifth Avenue
New York City

Dear Oliver ;

Merry Christmas !! And a Happy New Year !! Please remember me to Mr. Evans and Dr. Garside and other friends whom you may see . We have had a very happy Christmas here and have heard over and over again the wish that next Christmas , may see the War over . We had five RAF men in for dinner and then in the afternoon went to see the performance of the Bird's Christmas Carol which was assisted by three members of the Spooner family . It had been done in Janshow just at the end of the fall term and then was repeated in Chengtu by a different cast . The night before , we had the customary collection of carol singers going about , starting at eleven and keeping up the good work until two o'clock . Kathleen and I had worked hard all week and I am afraid that we did not enjoy the music as much as ~~usual~~ . we should have.

Early yesterday along came a letter from the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry informing us that we had been given a grant of \$ 30,000 NC. for indigo work in 1943 and this helped to make the day one of joy and merriment . *Would Blood & Gasoline be better?*

I enclose an article " Gasoline and Blood " .. a melodramatic title about a romantic subject .. that of transportation . I wrote it for Lindsay to go to you for publicity . However, I put more time on it than I had at first intended and added a map . Lindsay suggested that it might have a saleable value to journals , which are interested in China . So I am sending it to you for you to look it over and do what you can with it . If you think it has no value , then use it for publicity ... although I would like in this case, a copy to go to Dr. Arnup to see if he wants to use it in the United Church of Canada church paper . If you think that it has a possible value and can be sold .. then will you do the best that you can with it ? If you find it necessary to change or alter it in any way , then I suggest that you consider it a joint article and we share the proceeds . I can use any money received in many very valuable ways out here .

Which brings up another question ... Dan Dye has suggested and I agree , that too few of our West China people are writing articles or books for home consumption . We have allowed visitors to come into Szechuan and write the books that we should have written . Is there anything that can be done about it ? Are missionary societies at home interested on books in Free China ? If so , can we secure Dryden Phelps (?) Jim Endicott , Kathleen Spooner . Leonard Tompkinson , etc. etc. to do such work ?

Has any publicity ever been given to the West China Border Research Society and its journals ? This society , while having a very widespread membership does center up in the university and has a very creditable record. ~~1/1/42~~

With best wishes from all the family

Sincerely

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Gasoline and Blood

Map returned
to Ray Spooner

Tientsin, Shanghai, Canton, Haiphong, Hongkong, Rangoon and now Karachi - these are the ports to which the educational "Oil for the Lamps of China," has gone. All these centres have seen Western and Chinese personnel, as they travelled back to China escorting large orders of books, apparatus and chemicals. These were essential to teaching the thousands of Chinese youths who each year eagerly seek an education in our eleven Christian Chinese Universities. These universities which before the Sino-Japanese War were located in the north, south, east, west and central parts of China, were forced to flee and then perhaps to move for the second time in order to secure a place of refuge, a haven of peace in which their teaching might be continued. That is all except West China Union University located on its spacious beautiful campus in far Western Chengtu under the shadow of the Tibetan snow mountains. Four of these universities, Nanking, Ginling, Cheeloc and Yenching are now accommodated on this campus. The story of these journeys is truly an epic of courage and devotion.

thirteen

But I wish to tell another story, more prosaic perhaps but none the less heroic, the story of how these educational materials (more than 100 tons) have managed to find their way, year after year, from the docks at Vancouver, Liverpool, or San Francisco, by one route or another, through war-stricken China to the campus of West China Union University in Chengtu. This is a story not only of "Blood, Sweat and Tears" but more, one of "Patience, and Perseverance".

In the days before the War freight for West China had a long perilous journey. After crossing the Pacific it was unloaded at Shanghai, onto small Yangtze River steamers which took it up this mighty river, through the awe-inspiring Gorges where the engines had to fight fiercely against the terrific currents of the rapids. Those who have travelled through the Hindbox or the Witch Mountain Gorges will ever remember the fierce resistance of the river to being conquered by these "fire-eating boats", the river steamers. Finally, after several months enroute it arrived at Chungking. From this port it was put on small junks and then pulled or rowed the remaining four hundred miles to Chengtu. The natural perils of water and transportation, were added to by the numerous brigands of various descriptions. Not the least of these gentlemen were the Szechuan illegal-tax collectors for at one time there were over one hundred tax stations along the river between Chungking and Chengtu, each demanding its pound of flesh.

Even in those days of comparative safety, the returning Western members of the staff always escorted back to the university shipments of assorted supplies. For in this way, delays were omitted and certain illegal taxes waived. Since the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese War, it has been more and more necessary to have personal escort, especially as the routes of import contracted into a few narrow bottle-necks through which all supplies for China had to pass. Because of this personal escort, our university supplies, while restricted in quantity have steadily moved in and losses enroute due to all causes are well under 5%. If it had not been for this, many phases of educational work, especially the laboratory and medical courses would have had to be greatly restricted, perhaps entirely eliminated, as they have been in certain other universities and colleges. Let us glance backwards to this prosaic romance of transportation, prosaic only because it is concerned with the buying of routine educational and medical supplies, with their shipping, with stupid delays and inefficient methods of transportation. But romantic because of the heroic spirit of the men concerned, who appreciating the value of these university supplies have laboured with might and main to ensure their safe arrival.

The Shanghai-Yangtze River route was closed in the summer of 1937. This meant the substitution of the Hongkong, - Canton-Hankow Railroad, - Yangtze River route. This was opened for a limited period, sufficient only to bring in a few supplies. For, just when the routine had been worked out, with forwarding agents secured in Hongkong, Canton and Hankow, the Japanese in October 1938 grasped both ends of the railroad and forced our Chengtu universities to depend upon still more southern, and more difficult routes.

In 1938 several groups of West China University staff escorted in shipments of supplies. Dr. Crawford, in the early spring was among the first to motor via Canton, Wuchow and Kweiyang to Chungking on the as yet uncompleted motor roads. Later, after Canton was lost, another order of freight largely for the extensive medical work of the university hospital^s was brought in on lorries bought in Hongkong and then escorted by Dr. Liljestrand, via Kwangchow Wan the French controlled port in the extreme south of China. Then Dr. Cunningham and his party followed on this route. After countless delays due to official regulations, they were finally able to set out from Kwangchow Wan with nine tons of freight. The trip through was full of daily incidents. It must be remembered that these lorries had to be driven, day after day, over mud and gravel paths, which only by the very wildest stretch of imagination can be called motor roads. Grades are steep, and especially in wet weather, dangerous. Collisions due to reckless driving cause many accidents and in general the rule of the road is "every truck for itself". Filling stations are non-existent. Garages are located only at the large cities and supplies of spare parts are few and far between. Hence each driver must be his own mechanic and be capable of ready improvisation. There are few modern hotels along the truck roads of China and commonly the night's rest is secured sitting in the cab of the truck or on tables of small road side inns. At, inspite of these difficulties and the dangers, both of roads and sickness, the goods got through! sleeping

Another installment of badly needed hospital equipment for the New Hospital of West China Union University, was escorted to Haiphong, by Dr. Beech, (then 68 years of age). He took it through the delightfully exasperating French Customs and then by a mixture of energy, good humour, pull and assistance from the American Consul, got it on freight cars and sent off to Kuming over the five hundred mile railroad which climbs through the deadly malaria jungle belt and then mounts slowly to the 6,000 feet altitude of Kuming. To those familiar with the delays of Haiphong, this was a real feat. Haiphong then had hundreds of tons of freight parked around, much of which was still there two years later when the Japanese moved into Indochina. From Kuming, the goods were forwarded by truck over the Kweiyang-Chungking-Chengtou road - which travelled up, over and around wild mountainous country with one descent of over ninety hair pin turns. Dr. Beech was seriously ill when he arrived but his heart was easy for he knew that his valuable consignment was safe! Today as the operating rooms of the new University Hospital are put to use and the shining instruments, the beautiful non-glare lamps, the quiet operating tables plus the skill of the surgeon, all are combined in saving lives of Chinese patients, one sees the contents of this shipment used in the way that Dr. Beech knew it would be.

In the spring of 1939, large orders for three of the campus universities and the National Central University were placed by West China Union University to be shipped during the late summer to Haiphong where the writer ~~the writer~~ was to escort it by railroad to the Indochina-China border and hence by truck through Nanning, Kweiyang, Chungking and so to Chengtu. Only part of this order had arrived in time, but this part filled four three-ton trucks. The day before the convoy was to leave for Nanning, the Japanese moved in from Pakhoi and cut the route. This necessitated further tedious waiting, and competing with all and sundry to secure the precious freight cars. But finally after a month's delay the freight, including some which had been stranded in Haiphong for a year, moved to Kuming and thence over the long motor road to Kweiyang, Chungking and Chengtu. Fittingly, enough, this consignment arrived on Dec. 24, in time to serve as a Christmas gift to those waiting for supplies.

During the fall of 1939, Dr. L. Smythe of the University of Nanking flew to Kuming and arranged for the forwarding to Chengtu of a large order from America which had arrived in Shanghai, just at the outbreak of the Sino-Japanese "incident". It was ~~held there for some time but later forwarded to Manila. Then it was shipped via Haiphong to Kuming.~~

Dr. Thomson also of the University of Nanking had previously returned to Japan - occupied Nanking and repacked some 75 boxes of the more valuable pieces of apparatus, left behind when that university had fled in the fall of 1937. These were, with difficulty moved through the Japanese lines to Shanghai and then along with a large order of Shanghai and Hongkong purchases, escorted via Haiphong to Kuming and finally to Chengtu.

The balance of the large West China Union University combined order mentioned above finally arrived in Hongkong and Haiphong during the early spring of 1940. Mr. W.B. Albertson the University Bursar, although in frail health, undertook to collect this precious cargo, including large stocks of chemicals and glassware and see it through. Japanese pressure on Indochina had tightened as a prelude to their later seizing of ports and bases, so that it was even more difficult to cut through the Gordian knot of customs red tape. Patience, endless perseverance and constant trips to Hanoi, the administrative centre, were required. In this way several months passed until finally news came of the collapse of France. The Chinese began to talk of tearing up the section of the railroad across the Chinese border to prevent possible invasion and easy progress by the Japanese. A desperate last minute appeal by Albertson succeeded - and the freight left for China. It arrived at the border, a few days too late, - the bridge across the Red River, which is the boundary, had been blown up and the railway tracks on the other side torn up for 100 kilometers.

W.B. (as we called him) knew too well the value of this freight to give up so easily. He hunted out coolies and put them to work to ferry over all the freight to the other side. Half a dozen boxes had to be opened and repacked into locally-made containers as they were too heavy to be handled. Arrived on the other side, safe at last in China, there was ~~still~~ the task to carry the freight up the railroad bed to the section where the trains were still running. Just as this had begun, W.B. became ill with an infected foot and malaria. The border lands here have a virulent and deadly form of malaria. So the freight had to be left parked in the open jungle on the side of the railroad bed, W.B., desperately sick, left for Kuming. On arrival he went into the hospital, but it was too late and he died on *October 21st*, far away from his family in Canada and his friends and associates in Chengtu, a ~~simple~~ *quiet* but heroic missionary who had put his hand to the task and had followed it to the end!

Was the freight worth saving? The answer was "yes" and Dr. W. Crawford from the ~~same~~ University volunteered to go down to Kuming to take over. He arrived and set out for the Indochina border but also became seriously ill and it was only after several months in the Kuming and Chungking Mission Hospitals that he regained his health.

The next attempt however was successful'. Along with the educational freight was a large consignment of books for the Christian Literature Society. They were desperately needed as Free China was suffering from a paucity of Christian literature. Mr. C.Y. Sun, the Kuming agent of the C.L.S. already had assisted Albertson and Crawford and he now carried on alone. Extracts from his report show what a ghastly costly experience it was - "I ought not to go but how could I help it? No one dared to go with me, as it means running great risks. I had determined to trust my life to God, and went down only with two ignorant helpers under the arrangement that they stopped at the railhead, Wantang, and not go to the Hekow area which is famous for malignant malaria. I went down with \$22,000 cash and when I arrived at Wantang, I was seriously ill again with malaria. Should I go back? No, go on! I took a hwakan (carried by two coolies with two poles). It was dangerous as the day before two men were shot by bandits just 100 yards outside the village. Unfortunately when I arrived at Lacfanchai on 10.00 p.m. December 12th, (1940) I found there were only a few coolies there, all seriously ill. Others had gone away, as they feared they would also become ill. Then how could I move the cargo on? Though I had determined not to open the medicine boxes, as I knew there would be loss, I had to do it, because the only possible way was to carry it on horses. But where to find horses? With the help of the local Faochang, Mr. Seo, I secured enough horses after spending about 10 days, to repack the boxes into bamboo baskets, small cases, etc. When we arrived at Chihtsun, money had still not been received. At such a serious time, I was taken sick with malaria again, while air-raid warnings were our daily food". "ten bottles fell down into the river together with the horses at the 50 kilometers bridge, as the small wooden bridge was so dangerous and rough". "During this job, about 30 coolies and 5 horses died. So far as I remember all the coolies who carried me in hwagans died. About 120 coolies fell sick since they went to work for me".

But Mr. Sun concludes, "AT LAST, W.C.U.U. got the medicines and the C.L.S. got the books for Free China for the coming years. This is our last chance, and is the only reason

why we run risk to life and enter the dangerous and famous malaria district, the tiger's home to fight for a baby tiger, the new China, a corner of the Kingdom of Heaven".

courageous

No words can express the debt that we owe to these three men, Albertson, Crawford and Sun for their heroic work, and to the coolies who carried these tons of equipment, step by step, on its way to the railway and so finally to freedom! Is it any wonder that these medicines are used carefully and sparingly, for each drop has cost its weight of human bold!

In the meantime, several parties were returning to the campus by way of Rangoon and the Burma Road. The largest consignment was that escorted by Drs. Best and Hoffman, who in the spring of 1941 themselves drove their 3 ton trucks all the way some 2,500 miles from Rangoon to Chengtu. There is nothing in the world to equal the Burma Road - scratched out of and through the great mountains ranges by the "fingernails of coolies". Where else do you find a road so vital to the existence of a country, that crosses such mighty rivers as the Salween and the Mekong, and which has steep ascents where the cars ~~cl~~ climb steadily for five hours in the lowest gear? But once again the goods arrived safely, And not content with this long dangerous, nerve-racking trip, Dr. Best drove back to Kunming and moved the Albertson-Crawford-Sun order up to Chengtu.

In the fall of 1941. Dr. and Mrs. D. Dye returned to the field by the same route but this time travelled on a Friend's Ambulance Unit truck. This unit is largely composed of English conscientious objectors, supported by American money and equipment and headed by a China born, Canadian medical missionary, Dr. "Bob" MacLure. It not only cares for the sick and wounded but also has set up a transportation system for medical supplies, that stretched from Rangoon up to Sian - a distance by road of over three thousand miles.

It was this same unit which in the spring of 1942 at the very last moment before the Japs came in, secured the United China Relief boxes destined for Chengtu on the docks at Rangoon and got them out. They were compelled to work throughout air-raids and had to have a tank escort to break through the Japanese lines. Later they were pursued by Japanese planes and narrowly escaped the bombs. Finally after months of delay, the freight arrived!

Now as this is being written, only air transportation is available, and negotiations are proceeding to bring in urgently-needed supplies in this way. But in faraway Karachi, India, there is piled up an order of medicines and equipment for the new Hospital University which is desperately needed. And you may be sure that when Burma is reopened - once again a missionary staff member of the universities, will be on the job escorting these valuable supplies into China.

enter

What happens to supplies when they arrived? Come to the West China Department of Chemistry and see the new Ph Meter being put into immediate use, to investigate what happens to the dyestuff from the native indigo plant, during its process of extraction, a subject of immediate importance to Szechwan agriculture. In the Library, recently arrived books and journals are quickly assessed and put on the shelves for professors and students to use. Or ~~come into~~ a lecture room and see a Physics lecture being illustrated by means of a educational movie which has just come in. And finally in the hospitals the new slit lamp and corneal microscope are rushed into service in the diagnosis of trachoma and modern drugs are dispensed to bring about cures of stubborn illnesses. So in all science and medical departments work continues, on a reduced scale perhaps, but nevertheless carries on - due to these supplies which have been brought in, year after year, by trucks moving slowly over the new motor roads of China. It is truly a story of gasoline and blood, the gasoline which drives the trucks over the mountains and the blood shed by the thousands of coolies who have died as they built these roads and by those who have laboured to bring in these educational and medical supplies, to be used by the ~~four~~ ^{five} Christian universities in faraway Chengtu.

December 15, 1942

Roy C. Spooner
Department of Chemistry,
West China Union University, Chengtu

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NATURAL DYESTUFFS PROJECT 1943

In the spring of 1941, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry made a grant to the West China Union University for the investigation of indigo and other natural dyestuffs which might be of special interest to China, not only during this time of national resistance but also in the period of national reconstruction after the war. In the spring of this present year, this grant was renewed through the Ministry making a strong request to the Supreme National Defense Council which granted the request. We are now respectfully requesting the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry that this grant be renewed for 1943.

The large amount of work undertaken and the great progress made has been reported month by month to the Ministry. The work of 1941 has been continued with several striking results becoming prominent. The bulk of the work has centered around indigo in which methods of dyeing, studies of varieties, fertilizer and agricultural tests, in addition to research on the most effective methods of extraction have been successfully carried out.

Results for the Szechwan *Strobilanthes* to-date, indicate that on Chengtu soil night-soil and rapeseed cake are beneficial in their effect on yield while bone meal is depressing. The effect of these fertilisers on the percent age indican is not striking. The effect of two crop versus three crop picking is being studied as well as the comparative study of some three Szechwan varieties. The method of propagation from the roots of the previous year's crop instead of using cuttings has given a higher yield of leaves which also have a slightly higher indican content. The effect of shading is also definitely beneficial.

Indigofera plants grown from Kwangsi seed have flourished and yielded results indicating that next year, they should be given wide testing throughout the province in the indigo-producing regions. The yield is definitely larger than with *Strobilanthes* and it is believed that this will more than make up for the slightly lower percentage of indican. In addition a large yield of stem is secured available for manuring or firewood. This plant requires less field labour due to its heavy growth choking out the weeds and is more easily harvested than *Strobilanthes*. It has grown very uniformly over the area planted this summer and seems likely to be a valuable plant to add to those already utilised by Szechwan agriculture. Because *Indigofera* is a legume, its root residues will also enrich the soil with nitrogen.

In addition, two other varieties, as far as is known new to Szechwan have been grown and studied. They are *Isatis Oblongata* from Shansi and a variety of *Strobilanthes* from Kwangsi. It is hoped to add *Polygonum* to this list thus having on the same testing area these four great indigo producing plants and incidentally making agricultural history, for it is unlikely that they have ever been studied simultaneously in one place before.

The results of the 1941 work have been written up and published in the *Journal of the Chinese Chemical Society* (Vol. 9, No. 1, pp. 73-81). A reprint of this article is enclosed. It is expected that as a result of this present year's work three additional papers will be published.

Samples of indigo paste from various parts of Szechwan have been analysed and their content of indigo easily surpassed by the numerous extractions of indigo leaves carried out on a semi-commercial scale in our laboratory. From local indigo paste of some 9% a pure paste of 90% has been prepared by

a simple process of purification. This process is available for use on an industrial scale. In addition study of the effect of various methods of extraction has been done, - work is still continuing on this.

As has been pointed out before, it is impossible in a research of this importance and range to obtain complete results in one or two years. However, the problem has been definitely opened up and it is clear that further work will without question yield valuable results of importance not only to the trained agriculturist but also directly to the Chinese farmer and the cloth-dyer, thus assisting in China's national welfare.

A preliminary sketch is enclosed of work as outlined for 1943. Inasmuch as the work has now become definitely agricultural, especially in the field work planned, the assistance of the Agricultural Research Institute of the West China Union University has been solicited and obtained thus contributing greatly towards the more efficient prosecution of this project.

Because of the promising nature of the work to-date and its importance, we would respectfully request the Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry to continue their much-appreciated support of this project.

Roy C. Spooner
Head of the Department of Chemistry

W.C. Ho
Director of the Agricultural Research
Institute

November 10, 1942

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN

COPY

Feb. 8, 1945

Mr. C. A. Evans
Treasurer
Associated Boards for Christian
Colleges in China

Dear Mr. Evans ;

I am enclosing a copy of a letter to Dr. Gardner, of the Institute of Paint and Varnish Research, 2201 New York Ave. Northwest, Washington, D.C. which I should be glad to have you read through and then forward, with a letter of introduction. As you can see, we are interested in securing information about one of Szechwan's great natural resources and so we naturally go after the man who should know most about it. Please note that while we do not mind paying moderate charges for any searching or typing work that he might do for us, we are not anxious to spend money until we know just what is involved. In other words, this letter is to open up this contact in the hope that it may prove fruitful.

In addition would it be possible to secure this type of information from the Department of Agriculture, U.S. Govt. Washington? Could your secretary make a copy of my letter to Gardner omitting the first paragraph and slightly changing the latter sections and then addressing to the Dept. of Agriculture so securing their reaction? Two heads are better than one especially if they do not cost money.

You will remember my writing about photoprints of two reprints which you were good enough to secure for me and mailed in the summer of 1941. They have never arrived so we can now assume that they are lost. I have however, written to Dr. J. K. Fairbank the Director of the American Publications Service, Chungking asking him to have them microfilmed and sent out to me through their special mailbag. I hope that he will be able to do this for me, as we need the articles.

Life continues to "rush" out here. Dr. "Bill" Service has just arrived from Toronto. His father was one of the founders of our medical school and made a wide impression on his students. Now his son comes to carry on. Extraterritoriality is done with and one of the big obstacles to mutuality and partnership between the West and China is done away with. This evening there is a big celebration on the campus with a special rebroadcast of the San Francisco service. West China is pushing into Visual Education under the tutelage of Sven of Nanking. We are closely co-operating with Yenching which has a special relationship with West China. We have been fortunate in chemistry as all five departments have got along very harmoniously. The high cost of living ... is flattered by the word "high" .. it should be a much stronger word. Coal is one dollar gold a pound.. unrefined sugar is even more expensive and exchange still stays at 20:1 or in our case as 16.6:1 due to discount on Canadian funds. We are helping the recently established Institute for the Advancement of Indusce by doing work in electroplating and leather tanning .. we hope that it flourishes and gives the technical leadership that Chinese Industrial Cooperatives needs. I have been well but my youngest daughter Norah is just recovering from pneumonia. Best wishes to you and to my other friends in the office.

Copy one week later

Sincerely

Ray G. Spooner

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUATA"

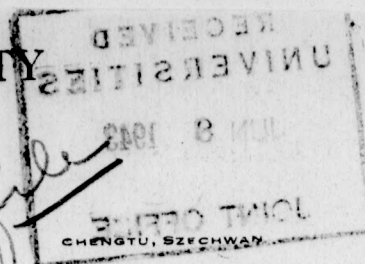
WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

COPY



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Feb. 8, 1943

*original of this
mailed 6/7/43*

X Dr. Henry A. Gardner
Director
Institute of Paint and Varnish Research
Washington .U.S.A.

Dear Dr. Gardner ;

I have just finished going through a copy of your unexcelled book "The Physical and Chemical Examination of Paints, Varnishes, Lacquers and Colors". This copy of the ninth edition somehow slipped through the Japanese blockade of China and arrived in Chengtu in perfect conditions half a year after the Burma Road had been cut .

Our Department of Chemistry has been interested in the investigation of the properties of Chinese "chi" or "lacquer" as it is called ,which is a product of the Rhus vernicifera and is widely produced in Szechwan Province . I note that in your book there is no mention of this substance .

Would it be possible for you to give me such references as may be available on the properties and use in modern paint industry of this lacquer .I believe that many years ago , it found a wide use in America and Europe and was exported from China .Later, due to the competition of improved varnish materials and because of its effect on many people of producing a rash , it lost this market .

At present the only references that I have are to various articles by Stevens and Warren in the American Journ. of Pharmacy and to Yoshida in J. Chem. Soc. 1883 and Stevens and Tschirch in Monthly Science, 1906 .

Since such enquiries on my behalf may involve expense ,I am requesting the Associated Boards for Christian Colleges in China to take care of them , if they arise .

Our work todate has been largely preliminary ,although some experimental study has been done on the analysis of the samples available locally and a study of their drying properties and the relationship of humidity and various driers . Due to our isolated position it is extremely difficult to contact others interested in this problem and impossible to secure many journals . Hence any suggestions or advice that you may send will be very welcome . On the other hand if due to our position in West China , the home of tung oil and Chinese lacquer, we can secure samples or information of value to your institute we shall be glad to do so .

Yours Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner
Roy C. Spooner
Head of the Department

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Dice

March 1, 1943

Mr. Roy C. Spooner
West China Union University
Chengtu, Szechwan, China

Dear Roy:

I have been very much interested in your letters, and I hope that you will make a practice of writing me periodically. You are practically my only source of reliable information regarding what is going on in Chengtu.

Mr. Tu's letter and transcript have been sent to Oberlin, and I believe he should not have much difficulty in securing a fellowship. Furthermore, I believe he would enjoy his work in Oberlin, and that a year on that campus would be an excellent preparation for future work towards a Ph. D. degree. You may be sure that I will do everything I can to assist him. Please assure him of my sympathetic interest, and thank him on my behalf for sending me the material.

I have often wondered how life is progressing in Chengtu. The campus must be greatly changed since my brief visit of six months in 1938. I have been hoping that something might happen to make possible my return to China, but this seems to be out of the question, unless the government sends me. As a matter of fact, I have been for months on the active list of both the Army and the Navy. Immediately after Pearl Harbor I offered my services to the Army, Navy and the Marine Corps. As you no doubt are aware, I am not a pacifist. Furthermore, representatives of the government periodically informed me that if I did not volunteer it would be an act of disloyalty. I was glad to offer my services, but so far there has been a singular lack of any desire to make use of them.

We are facing an exceedingly difficult situation as regards the securing of funds for the Colleges in China. Taxes are rising with the cost of the war. Simultaneously, the Colleges are asking us to secure for them four to five times as much for the coming year as they needed each year between 1937 and Pearl Harbor. We recognize the fact that even if all of the requests we have received were granted, there still would be a great needs yet unmet. However, we are deeply disturbed concerning the financial prospects for the coming months. United China Relief has been a great help, but there is a limit for what they can do for us.

With best regards to your family, and to all of my friends on the campus,

Very sincerely yours,

O. J. Caldwell

OJC:MM

Via China Clipper
cc: Via next Clipper

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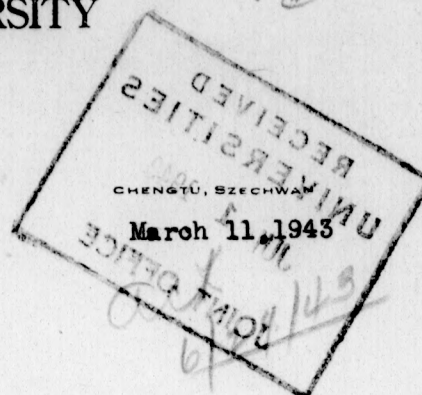
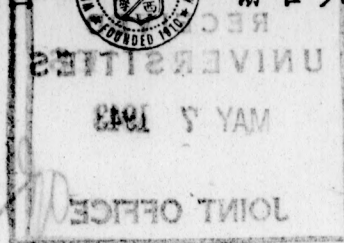
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WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西 協合大學



DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

Mr. Evans
150 Fifth Ave.
New York City.

Dear Mr. Evans ;

I am enclosing a card applying for membership in the American Association for Advancement of Science . Would you be good enough to forward this to the office and at the same time remit five dollars to them ? Please charge this to the university and I personally will pay this money into Miss Priest's office . I have no account in the United States and suggest this ^{check} money since movement of funds is now so restricted . Please instruct them to hold the copies of the weekly magazine " Science" for me until after the War when they can then be forwarded .

On our Requisition #00120 there was an item of " one set of eight 35 mm films on the Principles of Chemistry " to be purchased from Visual Sciences , Suffern , New York . This item was not included in the invoices that were sent to the field but after some inquiry , we believe that the box containing these goods is stuck in India . This requisition was dated March 26, 1941 .

Can you please repeat this order for me asking Visual Sciences to send this set of films to you . I would then hope that they might be sent or enclosed in letters as they come forward to Chengtu , enclosing in each letter one of the eight 35mm film strips . I think that the censor will allow such films to come through . Or is it possible to find out the censor's reactions to such a plan . It is not a very important matter but if they can get out here, we hope to be able to make use of them to good advantage . The total price for the set of eight films is fourteen dollars . which of course should go against the Dept. of Chemistry budget . I have not secured a requisition because of the uncertainty of their purchase and forwarding from the States.

When Swen Min Chin was in New York on his study of Visual Education . he obtained some grand pictures which are now being used for educational purposes on the campus . Some of these came from the British Library of Information , 620 Fifth Avenue , per a Mr. R.R. Ford while others came from industrial companies etc. If the office has any contacts in these directions , we would be interested in securing industrial films which are related to chemistry .

I would like to check the arrival of a letter of Miss Priest's written Oct. 14, 1942 regarding the setting aside of the sum of US \$ 4,446.00 in a special reserve account for the use of the department . We hope to be shortly adding to these per sale of dyeing equipment which has become broken but which , even so , sold at a very good price when the money was converted into US at the present abnormally low rate of exchange . I hope that before long as a result of pressure from home and out here that the Government will play fair and increase the rate.

With all best wishes

P.S. What is news of
John Kao ?

Ray C. Spooner

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March 30, 1943

Mr. Roy C. Spooner,
West China Union University,
Chengtu, Szechwan, China.

Dear Roy:

I was very happy indeed to receive your letter of December 26, together with the article you enclosed. The substance of your letter and the article both made me thoroughly homesick. The life we lead here is safe and placid, and sometimes we feel a bit ashamed of our comfort and safety. That is the way I felt after reading your letter and the article.

I have had "Gasoline and Blood" copied and am trying to decide what to do with it. It is extremely valuable material from our standpoint, but I must tell you frankly that it probably has no salable value because the Chinese Colleges are not sufficiently well known to interest editors of our important magazines. I speak with some personal experience on this subject because I have been writing about the Colleges now for more than four years and have had many encounters with the editors.

However, we are going to make use of this material in our own publicity and through United China Relief. I will let you know as soon as it is decided just what disposition will be made of it. In the meantime, you may be sure that we deeply appreciate your sending your article to us, and hope that you will write many more. We are extremely short of publicity material.

I would like to see you sell some articles, and I am therefore taking the liberty of making some suggestions concerning what I would consider to be salable subjects. Why don't you write an essay on life on the Chengtu campus during the war. Such an article might find acceptance by Harpers or by the Atlantic Monthly. I would also suggest an article on your personal reminiscences. You certainly should be able to write some thrilling stories of your life and your work in West China. Lastly, I believe an article on the teaching of chemistry in a Chinese university might find a professional market.

I agree with you and Dan Dye that not enough people on the West China campus are writing books and articles for home consumption. I wish you would assure your friends that we will do our best to place anything which may be sent us. However, they must realize that American standards are rather rigid and that it is extremely difficult for an unknown writer to place his material.

Furthermore, if it is to receive wide distribution it must have general interest and should not be limited in its content to the Christian Colleges, or to any one of these institutions. It is, of course, possible to take a limited subject and give it universal interest but this requires masterful treatment.

In the meantime, we are desperately in need of material which we can use for publicity. Please tell the people on your campus that the Colleges are constantly requiring more funds and that the raising of these funds constantly becomes more difficult. Publicity is our ammunition. Without ammunition the hunting is very bad. Right now our ammunition is practically exhausted.

We would be very grateful if you would send us a file of the back numbers of the Journal of the West China Border Research Society. We will be glad to pay for

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the mailing if it is possible to send them through the mail. I would place a limitation on this to the extent that we could use best the issue published during the past ten years.

There is a lot more that I could say but time and the excessive cost of postage forbids.

With best regards to you and your family,

Very sincerely yours,

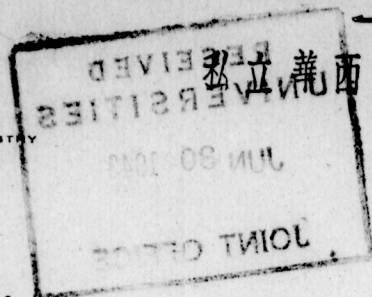
Oliver J. Caldwell

OJC:D

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1204

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY



聯合大學

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN

April 12, 1943

Dear Oliver ;

Your letter of March 1st has just arrived . Letters are now arriving in very good time but there seem to be gaps in one's correspondence for which it is difficult to account . It may be the censor , it may be that one is optimistic about the number of letters that friends are writing or other reasons .

However, I wish to enquire if my letters of Dec.26, Dec.21. Dec.13 have arrived at home . In one of these I had enclosed an article " Blood and Gasoline " .

You will be interested to know that we have had a letter from Dean Wittke of Oberlin confirming the grant of a scholarship for TuX for the next year . He has written accepting it and is going to Chungking next week to arrange , if possible his passport . He is also trying to move money to India to pay for his passage home if the Govt. grant his request . He has proved to be a good boy and I think will do well .He has the ability ... the only regret I have is that he is not as broad in his interests as I should like to see him . So far, he has no girl friends, and no interest whatsoever in formal religion . Both of us , greatly appreciate the interest and help that you have put in securing this scholarship for him . I hope that he will have an opportunity to personally thank you for it .

We have just concluded our College of Science Week , that is West China has . On Saturday the New Hospital had its official opening although work in it has been going on for over a year . There are now some 60 beds in full possession of patients and week by week they are expanding as equipment is moved from the over-crowded Ss Shen Ts hospital . Our week was featured by an open-house day on Friday and Saturday when we must have had twenty to thirty thousand visitors . We had a open-air movie show on Friday night with the movie machine that I purchased for the College and had sent in by air . There is no question the war has greatly stimulated the development of the entire university .

It has also brought to the fore the fact that we now have Chinese leadership. This of course brings with it , certain problems but it is a healthy sign and one of encouragement . All the more so at this time, for if the cost of living continues to rise, the foreigners will have to get out . The index is now over 7,000 for educational classes and as someone has said that in Germany when the index rose to this figure the pace became accelerated and then hit the ceiling ! We are hemmed in between the refusal of the Chinese Govt. to grant any releif from this pegged exchange rate and the inability of our mission boards to find more money for salary purposes . The only alternative seems , either to get jobs in China with the respective embassies or legations which can afford to pay or to go to India and either secure work there or else take a change on the ocean passage and go home. None of these are very inviting when work is prospering and one doesnot know what the next day will bring forth .

Can we secure some information as to what John Kao is doing ? We have had no word other than that inserted in cables by Mr.Evans . I suppose the easiest way to secure this is by writing direc to John and this I must do .I have been woefully neglectful . With best wishes from Kathleen and the family

Sincerely

Roy C. Spooner

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUATA"

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

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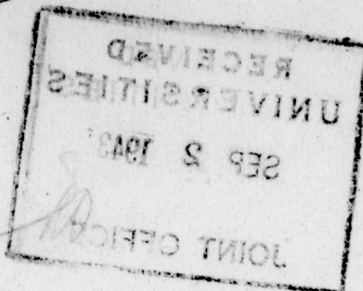


協合大學

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

CHENG TU, SZECHWAN

July 12, 1943



Mr. Oliver Caldwell
Associated Boards for Christian
Colleges in China
150 Fifth Avenue,
New York City . U.S.A.

Dear Oliver ;

This will introduce a graduate and teacher of our Department, Mr. Du Shu Tung for whom you were kind enough to assist in securing a scholarship at Oberlin College.

Mr. Du left Chengtu the first part of July and is hoping that he will have no difficulty in securing the necessary visas and other things needed to assist him on his way back to the United States so that he will arrive there in time for school this fall or if not, for the spring term of 1944 . I am writing this letter and sending one copy direct to him for him to carry and present in person , while another copy will go by mail direct to you so that you know that Mr. Du has left Chengtu and is endeavouring to get to the United States.

I think that Mr. Du is ready for graduate work and that he will fit into the present situation at home . It will be difficult for him to adjust at first for I understand that college life is now radically different from what it was. It may also be that he will encounter some criticism of Chinese students being allowed to continue with their studies while American students are being pressed into the army and navy .If so, would you please be good enough to interpret the situation so that he may understand .

We have recently had a series of conferences with Dr. Fenn on the possibility of closer co-operation between the five institutions now on the campus .Some very excellent results have been secured and I trust that these will only be a prelude to further steps . The cost of living is rocketting steadily . The Chinese dollar is now worth only 0.8 of a cent in terms of its buying power . Milk for our family last month cost well over one hundred dollars gold and the milk at that was well watered . Budgets can not be kept under control since people must live and in order to do so, money must be secured . We have had many evacuations in West China , all due to actual physical danger to body and life but this is the first economic evacuation and it is more relentless and harsh than anything we have very had .Unless something is done, it means the end of ,for the time being , of mission-supported work out here since no foreign body can continue to pour the amount of money needed into our salaries or work .

I shall be looking forward to a letter one of these days from you ... and anything that you can do to help Du react in the most favourable way to America at War , to a real understanding of our democratic principles and way of life will be much appreciated . I like him and think that he has got the stuff in him that is worthwhile.

Best regards to you and your wife and little girl (one or two ?)

Ray C. Spooner

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Kathleen & Roy Spooner

Dept. of Chemistry
West China Union University
October 24, 1943.

Dear Friends:

We have been reading some recent copies of "Life" in which is described some of the letdown in the United States after the North African campaign had been finished. We, here in Chengtu know that reaction all too well. A few years ago the entire country was welcoming refugees from down-river. Every few days the planes were swooping down over undefended Chinese cities of the interior while the troops were busy fighting to keep the enemy at bay. Then the refugees began to think of how to make a living, how to exist ..mounting prices began to cause increased suffering to China's white collar class, especially students and teachers, and when with the outbreak of the Pacific War, the Jap planes began to have their hands full coping with the British and American forces, we then were freed from the constant threat of bombing. Today the war, both in Europe and in China seems to be far, far away from us. And there has been a letdown in our attitude because of it.

I am sure that after the War there will be many interesting books to be written. In the textbooks on economics, there will be a startling chapter or so on China's inflation, how it came about and what it did. We have lost interest in the ever-rising cost of living index. It is continuing as it has been doing ever since 1937, to mount steadily approximately increasing by 10% per month, so tripling itself every year. There has been only a very slight increase in the official rate of foreign exchange so that to meet the increased local expenses, all foreign-supported institutions have had to secure greatly increased grants from abroad. When these funds are changed into Chinese currency a large share goes to the government because of this low, abnormal fixed rate of exchange.

The situation is serious, really so. All missions are reducing staff and may have to temporarily close. It is no cry of "Wolf" that is being heard but a crisis comparable in every way with the evacuation of the missionary from China, both in 1926 and earlier still in 1911. This time, however the primary cause is economic and not political.

Yet the very situation which causes local inflation, namely the increased demand for foodstuffs, raw materials, labor, manufactured goods, etc. provides a wonderful opportunity for the development and growth of a New Szechwan. What is happening in Canada in the way of a forced War expansion of industrial plant is taking place here too. Szechwan, which before 1937 was essentially a rural area with a population of seventy million people has almost overnight taken the first major stride towards industrialization. A few weeks ago, I was in an alcohol factory, (one of the many established by the government), which had a production of three to four thousand gallons a day. Save for the large boilers and some of the electrical machinery, the entire plant had been made in Szechwan. It was running under close chemical control with a staff of five chemists, the manager being a graduate of only some six years ago, while his staff were still younger. Nearby was a large sugar factory producing the first white sugar on a large commercial scale in the history of the Szechwan sugar industry. There are dozens of various types of factories scattered in Szechwan. These factories are making plans for the Post War Period and are going to be a permanent feature of our provincial life.

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Not far away from the alcohol factory was the salt-producing region. Here are salt-wells carried on in a primitive fashion that amazes one with their simplicity and efficiency. Our new Canadian Minister to China, General Odum visited this area recently. He had had a great deal of experience in mining and oil engineering and his comment was "it is impossible but -- it works!" Yet here the trained chemical engineer has already improved the process so that instead of using over a pound of coal to evaporate a pound of salt, the figure has been cut to less than eight tenths of a pound.

But let me come back to somewhat closer home, to the campus and its multifold activities and the Spooner family. Since I last wrote, we have welcomed another institution of higher learning to our campus. Peking Union Medical College. This is supported by the Rockefeller Foundation and was the outstanding medical college of the Far East. It has for the duration of the War, joined our own medical school, so furnishing a nice recognition of the comparative high standard of the work that we have been doing. In the past, our university has greatly suffered from lack of publicity. It was far away in the interior and therefore escaped the notice of tourists and other visitors to China who were travelling on a limited time schedule. Also we were small, we received little publicity, we had few Government contacts and so in contrast to the schools downriver, secured little outside support. When these other well-known institutions arrived on our campus, (we now have a total of five), we suffered a bit from an inferiority complex. But that has gone, we now know that while we are far from ideal, that we do not suffer in comparison with the other Christian colleges and we think that in general we are doing as good a job of university education as any other institution, either private or government-supported in China.

An item of real interest is the following report by Dr. F. Dickinson, one of my Canadian colleagues in agriculture. It affords an interesting picture into one phase of the university work.

" China's First "Test Tube Calf" Born in Chengtu.

August 2nd, 1943, was a RED LETTER DAY in dairy cattle improvement, for it was the day on which Dairyman Den's calf provided visual physical evidence which broke through objections and opposition to a scientific method of breeding which can be practised on a very large scale in areas in China where large enough numbers of animals are AVAILABLE for breeding.

Dairy cattle improvement in Szechuan got its initial major start in 1924, when the first Purebred Holstein-Friesian bull was brought to West China. This pioneer bull of the Black and White breed of dairy cattle was used for ten years at the same stand, and was then followed by another of the same breed purchased from the Culty Dairy Farm, Shanghai, in 1934. The Culty herd of several hundred head is reported to have been machine-gunned by the Japanese, and thus a wonderful source of dairy cattle improvement was wiped out through Japanese ruthlessness.

In 1939, Madame Chiang Kai Shek, anxious to improve dairy animals over a wider area, set aside two of her prize pedigree bulls for community breeding services in Chengtu and neighbourhood. This generous offer of the First Lady of the "LAND OF THE BLUE GOWN" gave added stimulus to the cause

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of dairy cattle improvement, and the services of these two bulls have been taxed to the limit each year. Nearly one thousand cows and heifers have been served by these pedigree bulls since their arrival in Chengtu.

To meet the demand for better breeding sires in other centres where there are not enough dairy cows available to make it worth while keeping a bull in that area, a "TRAVELLING BULL" scheme was projected. This new scheme created a new interest over a wider area where people are seeking for heavier animals for haulage, bigger animals for meat and hides, and better dairy cows for milk for human consumption.

With equipment made from local materials - bamboo; discarded inner tubing, metal and glassware, Dr. K. L. Lu of the Agricultural Research Institute, West China Union University, Chengtu, started the experiment in artificially breeding dairy cows and heifers at the University breeding station. Experimental work had already been successfully carried on for several months in the artificial insemination of local goats.

November 3rd, 1942, there was great excitement on the campus as three cows lined up for breeding. At 2:15 p.m. an aged cow, carrying the first generation improvement from the Holstein imported in 1924 was given the first injection. Two and one half hours later she was given another injection. The old cow had a reputation for being difficult to breed even by the natural and direct method, and it was with fear and trembling - but with high hopes that the scientific procedure of artificial breeding was carried through.

One should also add, that it took a great deal of persuasion to get the consent of the Chinese dairyman, Den Hung-hsin, to agree that his favourite and valuable cow should be the first animal to be bred by artificial means. To miss getting the aged cow in calf would mean a loss of thousands of dollars worth of milk each month, especially when successful breeding at this cycle would insure a maximum supply of milk during the autumn and winter when the demand and prices were best. At first he could not be persuaded that there was every chance that the calf when born would be a normal calf. His gestures and prostrations - very vigorously backed by serious economic logic and deep seated belief in the natural rather than the artificial - said, "But, if the calf when born is no bigger than a dog, and the milk flow after calving on a similar scale, well, I am ruined, and I miss a chance of getting a second generation improved heifer sired by Madame Chiang's best bull." It was difficult to pierce these deep longings, doubts and objections with words of conviction, but gradually H.H. Den consented; the deed was done, and owner and aged cow returned to their straw shack on the Golden City bank. This return home was followed by 280 days of anxious waiting. Would the old cow "call" again? Would the calf when born be a normal animal, and would it grow up like a natural calf and give lots of milk? Would the calf be a heifer, for the Chinese dairyman is always anxious to have female calves instead of males?

On August 2nd, ten days ahead of schedule, Den's aged cow gave birth to a perfectly normal heifer calf weighing fifty-six pounds. The dam is solid black in colour, while her newly

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born daughter is greyish black on the main part of the body, with white socks on the hind legs and some white on the body near the udder.

Dairyman Den has been changed from a doubting Thomas to a keen advocate of dairy improvement, for he sees in this young heifer at maturity, a source of income from the retail of fresh whole milk that will put him on easy street - for when this calf grows into a mature cow she should give near fifty pounds of milk daily. The grand-dam of this FIRST "TEST TUBE CALF" gave eight pounds of milk on two milkings, while the dam is reported to have given thirty pounds.

Thus artificial insemination of dairy animals has been given its first launching at the West China Union University, Chengtu, Szechuan, China.

August 4th., 1943.

In medical circles, two interesting developments are first, the visit of a team of some twenty of our medical and dental staff to the Famine Area of Honan during the summer vacation. They were away for three months doing active medical relief work all this time. They earned warm praise and did a fine piece of work. The second is about the establishment of the first Psychiatric Hospital in this part of China by the Municipal Government on the suggestion and under the management of our medical college. Treatment of the insane sometimes is extremely harsh and it is hoped that this hospital may be a forerunner of a more modern attitude towards the mentally afflicted. Another item that has cheered us is the generous grant from the Canadian Red Cross to our group of eight Canadian hospitals in Szechwan.

Student enrollment this fall at the university, is again up, close to one thousand one hundred and fifty. This is too many. But for every new student whom we have accepted, we have turned away seven or eight! The pressure on all educational institutions out here to expand is something that is difficult to explain clearly to friends at home. This year, we have a large group of students from the Occupied Areas who are now finding their way into Free China after some experience with education under the Puppet Government. Our graduates are all easily finding positions and the Government is continually urging us to expand and take in more students. All medical, dental and pharmaceutical students are conscripted for a year of service immediately after graduation. I anticipate that this may be extended to other departments in the near future. Students in our first year class, are for the first time able to secure the assistance that has always been extended to students in government universities towards their board, books and clothes. So that now, we can attract the poorer students in a way that formerly was impossible.

In the Department of Chemistry, we have ten students graduating in the spring. All of these will devote 6-9 hours per year to thesis work. Four of these are doing special work in leather chemistry, two will be working on topics in organic chemistry while I am directing two in work on Indigo Purification and electrolytic Preparation of Ammonium Persulphate and Hydrogen Peroxide.

Our Department is continuing our now two year old programme of research into the possibilities of the Szechwan natural indigo. We started this work in 1941 with government support and have had a group of three or four of our staff on it ever since. Szechwan indigo is quite different to that grown in India. We have experimented with the local variety, trying to secure a high-indigo producing type, and have also brought in plants from other provinces of China. This summer we have been studying the adaptation of the Indian indigo seed. Then we are investigating the local methods of indigo extraction from the plant and the production of the indigo paste which is used to dye the blue cloth which is worn, it would appear, by well over seventy-five percent of Szechwan's population. Last week I bicycled thirty-five miles up to Penghsien and then the next day, went out another fifteen miles to the small town of Hai Wo Ts where we were conducting some field experiments. This town of perhaps three thousand people is just inside the foothills to the north-west of the Chengtu Plain. Through the assistance of the local church pastor who is a graduate of our university, we were able to easily secure the co-operation of the farmers and so the work had gone along very well. Indigo used to be widely grown in this area but with the coming of the synthetic indigo, which they call "Quick Indigo", it lost a large part of its market. Now it has revived and it is a question as to how long and under what conditions, it will be able to continue after the war, when German, British and American dyestuffs once again come into the Chinese market.

My trip furnished me with an opportunity to see what one Chinese pastor does. Our church in this town is not very large, perhaps it has forty to fifty adherents. They contribute to the salary of the pastor but obviously cannot take the full responsibility so that a part comes from foreign funds administered by our Chinese church. He is trained not only in theology but also in agricultural extension work and serves as the unofficial agent for our university agricultural workers. Behind the chapel is an acre of land which has been converted into a fruit nursery garden and now contains some 35 different kinds of trees being tested for their local adaptations. Concord grapes are much superior to the local grape and here is an area in which they do well. Last summer some twenty thousand dollars worth of grapes were sold with this money being available for use in extending the nursery. In one corner were about one hundred small grape plants, which were being given to a farmer nearby who was a church member in order to help him start a small nursery. The arrangement was that this was a gift but that when the vines began to bear, a share of the proceeds were to be given to the local church work. Slips, cuttings and seeds were being made available without charge to the entire district. Apple trees grown by Dr. Dickinson were growing there and by their annual crop of lovely fruit and ready sale were proving to the farmers that here was a new important source of revenue which could be used to build up their standard of living. An improved Billy Goat is going up to this area and through Pastor Tsao is being loaned to the community to produce a better type of goat, with increased milk and meat yield. Every other day is market day and on these days, the chapel is open for meetings and public worship. Progress is slow, but a real honest to goodness attempt is being made in this agricultural community to give the type of Christian leadership which is needed.

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Only ten miles further up the valley is the Catholic Seminary. The Catholics have been in this area now, for over two hundred years. But their method is entirely different. They are great landlords and much of the land is theirs. They depend upon the rent for the annual maintenance of the work. They do little active evangelism or community work of the kind mentioned above but depend upon the slow steady growth of their native community which forms little pockets among the regular community. Judged from the outside and with little knowledge of their work, their method seems to be much more concerned with the preservation of the status quo. Yet one can not but speak highly of the devotion of their foreign and Chinese priests who have worked heroically in their support of Chinese resistance to Japanese aggression. Many of the foreign priests are French, quite a few from Quebec. It always strikes me as humorous when I meet them that we have to converse in Chinese!

The Spooners are enjoying life although I rather think that physically we are a bit below par. We find the constant pressure of the high cost of living extremely trying. With three small children to look after and also to educate, there is little time for rest or relaxation. Eggs are now selling at three dollars gold a dozen while well-watered milk is seventy-five cents gold a pint. Yellow sugar is close to two dollars a pound. We are of course accommodating our standard of living to these increased prices. It may be that shortly the Home Board will conclude that it is too expensive under present conditions to keep missionaries out on the field and we shall all have to evacuate to India or to Home. And it would be such a real tragedy with the present opportunities and great needs surrounding us on all sides. However, all who are due for furlough are going in spite of the risk of ocean travel and few if any are returning, so leaving increased responsibilities for those of us left on the field.

With the evacuation of the Canadian School to India and the departure of teachers and older pupils, our children have been left to the parents to continue their schooling. In our case, it means that Kathleen teaches for five hours a day both mornings and afternoons. David is in grade five, Hilary in grade four while Norah is just beginning grade one. Hence there is a wide range keeping the teacher constantly alert and occupied. But Kathleen by giving up all other activities has carried the load extremely well and the children are doing fine. But we long to have a good public school around the corner with its abundance of activities and playmates for all three children.

Please dear friends, if you have any leisure time, write to us. Letters are arriving safely. They do not need to be as long as this quarterly letter has grown to. Dash off a brief note and then mail it. We are cut off from papers, books, and other news save that which comes per. the B.B.C. It makes us feel very much out of touch with friends, so once again, in spite of our failure to write personal letters to you all, do write.

Kathleen and Roy Spooner.

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Ray and Kathleen Spooner

West China Union University
Chengtou, China,
July 27, 1944.

Dear Friends:

Today has been the second day of the university entrance examinations. I was presiding officer in one of the dozens of lecture rooms pressed into use to seat the eighteen hundred students who were trying the examinations. This number is in addition to the thousand or so who will try at Chungking, Wanshien and other places. Of this number we plan to receive approximately 200 students, or about one in every fourteen students. Even these will be greatly reduced by perhaps one half before the end of the first year. And yet in spite of the steady elimination of the ones not fitted for university work, we still have too large a proportion of ones who are not real university calibre. From the government we are under criticism that we are not turning out enough students while our teachers, concerned with high standards of academic ability, moral leadership and personality, push for the further lowering of the number of students. So we steer a middle course.

The key for the preparation of Christian students is fundamentally not in the university but in the middle school. But it is exactly here that our whole programme of Christian education is weakest. Because of the difficulties caused by increasing power placed in the principal's hands and the financial economies of these years, we have been forced to give up much of the Christian middle school programme. It seems unlikely that we shall begin it once more. After the war we must start on the new plan of attaching Christian teachers to government schools - to be responsible for active Christian work - rather than try and maintain our own individual schools, with their problems of management and support.

It is interesting to try and guess just what method is to be taken by China and India to build up their standards of living and create a modernised country. The Russian experiment suggests one way of doing it .. but I see little chance of it being imitated. Each country will have to find their own specific road to be followed. In China we are presented with the Generalissimo's estimate (in the book "China's Destiny") of the goals that China must set for herself in the ten years following the end of the war. All educational work is of course to be greatly expanded and the number of graduates tripled every few years. It seems inevitable that great reliance will have to be placed on the graduates of the war years to go out and staff these new institutions. Since the Christian universities, both in quality and size, in comparison with the government schools are now turning out a comparatively large number of students, it is clear that through these graduates we shall have a very real opportunity of extending our influence.

It is extremely hot as I write. I am hoping in two days to get a jeep ride up to the mountains where Kathleen and the children have been for almost a month now while I have been continuing my work on the campus. And then enjoy three weeks' holidays. So I want to get this brief letter off. I do not want to spend time either on the Chinese political or economic situation. Save that, our rate of exchange has finally increased and temporarily the price of certain basic commodities has fallen a bit. (Rice is just 1,000 N.C. per

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bushel.) Whether this is temporary or not I do not know. But I would love to see a drop in the market so severe and radical that it would ruin some of the gamblers who have been making money hand over fist in speculation.

The war is adding to our stock of stories as follows:-

The other day a G.I. (American term for soldier) was wondering how to get into a Chinese movie theatre. He spoke no Chinese. In the midst of his uncertainty, a middle school student came up and said to him: "Today no sit see, if see stand see, see no see?" And seeing that he was unwilling to "stand see", he said: "Tomorrow sit see."

Another story concerns a G.I. at a banquet, telling about fighting the enemy, and being translated. The translator, a Chinese, found great difficulty with the following expressions "pup tent", "give them the works". The former was translated "after advancing against the enemy and driving him back, we retreated to our dog kennels"!

As I look back over the year's activities one of the highlights was an evening when Kathleen and I went into the city to see "Romeo and Juliet". Yes, translated into Chinese and acted out in true Shakespearean tradition. The actors had fair or red hair .. they had large, huge noses just like all Westerners in contrast to the Chinese (the effect was secured by adding large wads of chewing gum) and the gestures, delivery, staging and lighting were all of Hart House variety. The clothes were lovely .. made up largely of odds and ends of foreign clothing that had been sold in second-hand shops by missionaries to raise money to live on.

It was a long play .. nothing was cut out and it ran from six o'clock to eleven. Not too much time was lost in shifting scenery either. Shakespeare himself would have liked the casual atmosphere of the pit where we had men peddling all sorts of stuff to eat and the audience drinking tea or spitting out melon seeds .. quieting squalling babies or friends coming late or getting up to go out and relieve themselves at all times .. all this was Chinese theatre but perhaps it came close to old customs in England.

Kathleen and I enjoyed it. Romeo was well played .. with a touch of Hamlet. Mercutio was also fine. The nurse had some lovely comic relief that was far more effective than her counterpart on the English stage. Juliet was very appealing and beautiful indeed .. but a bit more sophisticated than was called for. It was interesting throughout to notice the way that Chinese actors .. trained in the native drama use the entire body and its gestures to portray meaning far more effectively than we are able to. But their gestures are at times rather stereotyped. Some voices, especially Juliet's, were not natural. They had elements of that higher pitched tone as used in native drama.

Modern drama is here to stay. This same company of authors, most of whom were movie stars in Shanghai before the war, have just finished putting on a Chinese modern play called "Home". It ran for several months in Chengtu and has now been put into the movies. It is said to be a modern classic in its superb portrayal of the tragedy

sometimes found in Chinese family life. But it greatly affected the audience so that tears flowed with great ease. It is the story of thwarted love .. in which one lover finally dies of T.B. Sounds simple but it is superbly done. It is to be put into English and published, I believe in a book edited in part by Dr. Phelps, now being prepared on Chinese Arts and Letters in Wartime.

In previous letters I told something of the Department of Chemistry. This time I am going to mention the College of Medicine and Dentistry. I heard a story of a preacher giving a trial sermon who before he began, raised both hands to the left and opened and shut them once. Then at the close he repeated this gesture to the right. The people liked his sermon but did not understand his gestures. Intrigued they invited him back with the same reaction. Then they decided to invite him to be their regular minister. The committee told him that they liked his preaching but did not understand his gestures. What were they? "Oh," he said, "they were the quotation marks." Well, please put quotation marks here for I am going to quote a report on the medical-dental training of the university campus.

"In medical and dental training and service the West China campus is certainly the national centre. It is at present the only place in China where the full seven years in dental training of University grade is being given. There is a new dental clinic in the University Hospital. While it lacks certain equipment and furnishings due to the war, it is serving an increasing number of patients and is proving most adaptable. It makes possible better training of students, and serves as an example for other schools of dentistry.

Dental research has been carried on by members of the staff over a period of some years in Sikong and in the border lands, as well as in Szechwan. In the new national dental clinical and educational program being planned, West China Union University is asked to assume greater responsibility not only in under-graduate courses but also in advanced study and research. It is becoming the centre of advanced training and scientific research in dentistry for all of China.

For four years the National Central University College of Medicine cooperated with the College of Medicine of Cheeloo and that of West China U.U. on the latter's campus. The National Central University College now has a separate plant in the city. Cheeloo has 156 students of medicine, while West China has 233 in medicine and 98 in dentistry. It is interesting to note that less than half of West China's students of medicine and dentistry now are Szechwanese. Schools of nursing and of hospital technology are maintained. The Pathological Department carries on regular diagnostic service for 22 hospitals in the Western provinces and receives occasional calls from all over Free China. University Hospital clinics serve all of Free China, patients coming from distant provinces, especially for eye treatment and for radium treatments, this being the only place in Free China where radium is available.

The campus University Hospital has an X-ray plant where there may be secured the most complete diagnostic service to be obtained in China. The eye clinic is the largest and best equipped in Free China. It attracts post-graduate students from many places.

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Large gifts for scholarships in eye work have been secured. The public health work of the West China Medical and Dental College, and of the Cheeloo and National Central Medical Colleges is combined with the provincial health administration. The Rockefeller Foundation gives support to this combined program in public health. A rural station is maintained at Wen Kiang, near Chengtu, with the cooperation of its "hsien" government."

Since the above was written in 1943, the Peking Union Medical College with their group of refugeeing students and teachers has joined the West China Union University's medical group. They are also operating a Graduate Nurses Training Course which is doing a fine job. So that truly the campus has become a real centre of medical education in Free China.

Another departure which is of recent date is the very close co-operation which our hospital group is giving to American Army medical personnel. While I cannot give details of this at present, it has very splendid results and is of great interest and direct value to the war effort.

People are steadily leaving the field for furlough. Our mission is down to the lowest number that we have ever been to since the day of the anti-foreign trouble in 1926-27. Next spring less than a slim handful will be left. But surely the end of this forced retrenchment is in sight. We all hope that in the fall with the prospering of the war that communications with the outside world will be once more possible for China and that this will deflate the inflation. These past seven years just past have been hard ones and those who are left are ready for the rest that furlough provides. However, peace in China, like peace throughout the world is not likely to lessen the troubles .. it will only change their nature .. and substitute complexity for simplicity.

It is easy when contemplating these problems to become immersed in problems of Christian world statesmanship, and forget that it is the contribution of individual Christians who have made the Christian ideals of a better world possible. If you will forgive another quotation, let me give the "Last Will and Testament" of Pastor Shih .. a man who in his span of life had seen great changes come to China, including for himself a long trek to the West, to Szechwan where his son is Professor of Old Testament at the West China Union Theological Seminary. He reveals himself in this as having lived a life that has greatly helped in bringing in the Kingdom to China.

" I am eighty-two this year. For fifty years thanks to God's grace I have done the work of an evangelist. Preaching the Gospel is no easy task, but it is the happiest thing in life. In the course of my work of spreading the Gospel I have several times been in danger of my life, and have often been ridiculed and persecuted, and suffered from hunger and cold. But God's grace has been sufficient. It has enabled me to see five churches built and completed, and all become independent, self-supporting and self-propagating churches. The greatest joy of my life has been that God has chosen you (my son) and enabled you to have the very best training at home and abroad, and has now given you the privilege to

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undertake the responsible duties in the West China Union Theological College. This is all God's grace, not your own merit, and you must put forth your very best efforts to pass on freely to others what you have yourself freely received. Buy land for a cemetery in the Siang-shan church district; contribute to the utmost of your power to help the Old Peoples' Home; take steps to collect money for the rebuilding of churches destroyed by the Japanese. But the most urgent need of all is to train church workers of a high standard for the Siang-shan church. All my ready money and property I bequeath to the Old Peoples' Home, it must not be used for any other purpose. You must always be economical for the sake of others. Never borrow money; in everything be willing to deny yourself; be diligent and thrifty. I would like all my children and grandchildren to preach the Gospel, for the only hope for the world is to accept Jesus Christ as Lord. Apart from this there is no way of salvation. It is for this reason that I have preached the Gospel for fifty years and it has been like one day. I know the joy of preaching the Gospel message, so I want you to be faithful to your call to the end, the same from first to last. May it be your joy to preach the Gospel in season and out of season. My heart is full of joy and happiness and full of gratitude and praise to God for His grace. I shall die happy for I have seen the work and glory of God. May the Lord bless you. May He give you a strong body, that you may be able to accomplish much for the church. Do not be anxious; do not over-work; remember that your body is the temple of God, so you need to look after it well. I have lived to be eighty-two; you ought to live to be at least the same age to be worthy of me. May the Lord keep my whole family joyous and happy and loyal to the end, serving the Lord for ever and ever.

Amen."

From your friends,

Roy and Kathleen Spooner.

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The responsibility is the West China Union Theological College. This is all God's grace, not your own merit, and you can not think that you are entitled to have others give you anything freely. The fact for a committee in the Bible is that they should be sent to the extent of your power to help them. The Bible is not to send money for the building of churches, but the most urgent need of all is to train leaders for the church. All the money that you can give to the Bible is for the church. You must also be responsible for the care of the money. Never touch money in anything but the way that is provided by the church. I would like all of your contributions to go to the church for the Bible for the building of churches. It is for this reason that I have given the Bible for fifty years and as you can see, I am still doing it. I have the same message, as I want you to be faithful to the end. The same thing is true for you. It is your duty to give the Bible to the church and not to the world. It is your duty to give the Bible to the church and not to the world. It is your duty to give the Bible to the church and not to the world. It is your duty to give the Bible to the church and not to the world. It is your duty to give the Bible to the church and not to the world.

With your friendship,
 For the Christian Student.

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TELEGRAPHIC ADDRESS: "HUATA"

WEST CHINA UNION UNIVERSITY

私立華西



協合大學

DEPARTMENT OF CHEMISTRY

INDICATES AMOUNTS IN THOMSON SHIPMENT
ORDERED FROM ARTHUR THOMAS
BUT NOT DELIVERED

October 10, 1944

ack 4/20/45

Dear Mr. Evans ;

Recently I have been informed that small parcels of drugs and chemicals may be sent by mail to China . I have seen drugs on the streets which were purchased in Honolulu and have arrived in about 3 months' time . If this is so would it be possible to forward the following small order of urgently needed chemicals for present teaching work to Arthur H. Thomson and ask them to investigate and do what they can ? Since this is rather indefinite I am not making out a formal order requisition but am sending a copy of this letter to Mr. W. Small for his office information.

Items are as follows .

cobalt cyanide	50 grams	Paradiamino diphenyl	50 g.
rhodamine B	20 g.	dimethylglyoxime	50 g.
p.nitrobenzene			
azoresorcinol	10 g.	allyl alcohol	50 g.
amylene	50 g.	benzamide	50 g.
benzene sulfonyl chloride	100 g.	benzyl alcohol	50 g.
n.butyl alcohol	50 cc.	dimethyl sulfate	50 g.
galactose	50 g.	hydroxyamine HCl	50 g.
lactose	50 g.	ligroin	25 g.
phenyl hydrazine	100 g.	phenyl isocyanate	50 g.
quinoline	50 g.		

We do not expect that this service will be cheap but local prices are so high and need for these so urgent that we are willing to pay what it costs . Please ask them to send this in several shipments over periods of ten days in between . Let us have the invoice by airmail for use with customs procedure. wit

If these can not go by post .. is there any other way of getting them out ? I have sent identical lists to various sources , including Dr. Kilborn , Sino-British Science Co-operation Office, Dr. C. Thomson , etc but without any reaction whatsoever . Even if these other inquiries bear fruit , the amounts are small and can easily be used .

Dr. L. G. Kilborn writes that publicity material for West China is just not arriving at home in contrast to other universities and colleges . Can you notify whoever is responsible for publicity that 1). one reason for this is that when material goes home , we never hear just what has been done with it , and 2) . that I am willing to do what I can in this direction if I am told just what is needed and 3), what about all the pictures of university work and personnel that have been taken by March of Time, Life , and other organisations these past few years ?

We have had abominable weather this past month ... the sun has refused to shine for us . But it helps keep the Japs away so we do not object too greatly . We have been missed in the past three raids and hope our luck continues .

Sincerely Roy C. Spooner

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