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P. M. Sharples
West Chester, Pa.

Nov. 27, 1933.

Mr. George G. Barber, Pres., Trustees,
Yenching University,
150 - 5th Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Barber:

I have your letter of the 22nd.

I doubt if I can be of any value to you
in the matter of the Yenching University, but of course
if I can render any service I shall, of course, be
glad to do so.

Thanking you for your kind letter, I am

Sincerely,

P. M. Sharples
Mr. Philip M.

PMS/E

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H. M. Sharples
West Chester, Pa.

Dec. 1, 1933.

Mr. N. Gist Gee, Vice-pres.
Yenching University,
150- 5th Ave.,
N.Y.C.

Dear Sir:

I have your letter of November 29th.

I shall be pleased to get from you at any time information, in English, regarding the University and its plans.

As I notice there are between 700 and 800 scholars attending the University at the present time, how many of these are Chinese, and what is the proportion as between men and women?

It seems the University has been in operation for a great many years. Has its influence during that time been discernible amongst the Chinese? It seems as if there is a long distance to go perhaps, but it seems to me that about the present time the Chinese are more susceptible than formerly to improvements which will count in the long run. The natural favoritism which the Chinese have shown towards Americans and the fact that the Americans as a whole have a feeling of friendship for the Chinese, perhaps more than is the case with other nations, should operate to mutual advantage.

As stated, I shall be very glad to have printed matter in English regarding the institution.

Sincerely yours,

H. M. Sharples

PMS/E

Dec. 4, 1933

Sending literature:

"New Goals to Win"

Testimonials

5 latest Yenching News

"Yenching College for Women"

Report of College of Public Affairs

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December 5, 1933

Dear Mr. Sharples:

Thank you for your letter of December 1st, making certain inquiries about Yenching University.

We are happy to tell you that this year the enrollment is over 800 - 804 in fact. Several hundred applicants are yearly turned away since it is impossible because of lack of space, as well as because of a rule to limit the number to approximately 800, to matriculate more than that number. Of the 804, 553 are men students and 251 women students. Practically all are Chinese. As a rule there are only two or three Westerners in each year's enrollment.

You will also be interested to know that of this 804, 107 are in the Graduate School, as Yenching is providing increasingly fine courses, especially in the natural sciences.

There are 102 faculty members, 38 of which are Western and 64 Chinese. In addition to the Westerners, practically every Chinese member of the faculty is a Christian. Over a quarter of the student enrollment are professed Christians.

You are quite right in understanding that Yenching has been in operation for a great many years. We might call your attention, however, to the fact that while the roots of the present University go back to the beginnings of the several institutions mentioned in our leaflet "Yenching Today," the Yenching University as it is known today on its new campus outside the walls of the city of Peiping (Peking), actually began in the year 1926, when both the Men's and Women's Colleges moved out from the city. On the other hand, the first class of the new union university was graduated in 1919. The student body in the first year was less than 100, so that the 804 of today shows a growth of 800% in only fourteen years.

Yenching's influence is felt from one end of China to the other and it is growing rapidly. Locally the experiment station in the village of Ching Ho, near the campus, is proving of great value to the farmers in the vicinity, as well as in spreading education of a general nature among the villagers, men, women, and children.

A number of Yenching graduates and faculty are employed in Government positions. Some data concerning this may be found on pages 22 to 25 of the report of the College of Public Affairs which we are sending you under separate cover. Other graduates of Yenching are employed throughout China as teachers in public and private schools, in rural industrial work, in journalism, in banking, and so forth. Graduates have no difficulty in

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securing positions.

While, of course, as you say, there is still "a long distance to go" before China as a whole will feel the influence of so small a number of scientifically trained men and women among the millions of people of that great country, still a valuable and definite start has been made by our University and others in China who are working toward the same end. A real and fine loyalty for their country is being developed among the youth of China and the influence of such a school as Yenching in instilling in its students a desire to fit themselves for real and lasting service to their country is demonstrated daily, not only by the testimony of its graduates but by the older generation holding positions of prominence and respect.

Those of us who have spent the greater part of our lives in an intimate association with the educated young Chinese, and who have been following closely the changes which are now taking place in China, are sure that it is slowly evolving from chaos and has possibilities of becoming one of the strongest nations on earth. The most potent factor of this evolution is education, and Yenching represents the highest development in educational work in China today.

In addition to the report mentioned above, we have sent you some other printed matter concerning Yenching and we trust that this will be of much interest to you.

Very sincerely,

N. Gist Gee,
Vice President

Mr. P. M. Sharples
West Chester, Pa.

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H. M. Sharples

West Chester, Pa.

December 11, 1933.

Mr. N. Gist Gee,
Yenching University,
150- Fifth Avenue,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gee:

Thank you for the printed matter re: the Yenching University.

Unfortunately, I have never visited in China and so all my knowledge of it is gained from newspapers and printed matter and from a few Chinamen I have talked with, and this knowledge is not much.

In going over the reading matter, you have sent me, I am impressed with the fact that your students and graduates are practically all majoring in Economics and Social problems. Such are very necessary but not to the exclusion of that other class, the creators of wealth and substance.

I divide the world into two classes, those who create wealth - the agriculturists and the manufacturers - and those who merely trade in the wealth so produced. These latter are the Lawyers, Teachers, Social Workers, Politicians, Bankers, etc. etc., all of them merely passing from one hand to another the wealth created by the Agriculturists and Manufacturers. These wealth creators are and will be the foundation for regeneration in China and on which, as a foundation, a better China must be built. No other foundation will last.

He refers to page 17 of the printed matter on page 17 of the printed matter.
I note with interest the small experiment station established at Ching Ho, which perhaps is a beginning, but in a list of some fifty graduates, I notice but two - L.L.S. 1926 and N.K.D. 1930, whom I would put in the wealth producing class, though I may be mistaken in this.

I see no emphasis on Engineering, none on Agriculture, and none on Manufacture.

Without these latter, I see no permanent improvement in China, and even though they may pull themselves together and with a stabilized government whip the "tar" out of Japan or any other interfering nation, yet they will be without that wealth-producing foundation of Agriculture and Manufacture, which is necessary for their permanent prosperity.

I wish I knew better agricultural conditions in China. What is the nature of the farm land; what kind of farm

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Sent with letter on Dec 15th

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stock is owned there, and just how is the farming carried on? Does the government give it any attention anywhere?

Throughout the printed matter you sent me, I fail to find a single reference to dairy business. That industry creates untold values for Americans and for other prosperous Countries over the earth. So potent is the cow, that I think it may almost be said that the prosperity and advancement of most every Country in the World is in proportion to its cow population.

In America, producing millions of pounds of butter, a wholesome, nutritious, delightful food, at little over half the price of meat. A pound of butter is all food; none is wasted; but a cut of meat, less bones, gristle, portions of the fat, cooking shrinkage and left-overs, is half wasted usually.

And Milk, Cream, Cheese, - how can a Country live without them?

Their production has other immense advantages. To build up farm land, put cows on it; and to make a sturdy, gentle, even-tempered, loyal people, who can be depended upon, - turn them into dairymen.

I am at a loss to determine in my mind what the present feeling in China is about this subject of dairying and why it has not prospered there in the past. Is it climatic conditions? Yet these, especially in Northern China, cannot be different than in some of our dairy countries here. We have sections of prosperous dairying, where irrigation is necessary, and we have hot climates and sandy soil where dairying flourishes.

Look at Ukrainia, the most prosperous part of Russia, and its miserable government for the last many generations, and the thousands of tons of dairy products they produce. Look at their physique, loyalty and power, - the best people in Russia, because they have milk to drink, instead of Vodka, and cows to attend.

Yenching is in touch with the University of Missouri. Why not one hundred acres and a small dairy with complete dairy facilities and high bred stock with a competent farmer and dairyman from Missouri, or Iowa, or Wisconsin, Pennsylvania or New York?

With this model dairy and the encouragement of some of the well-to-do landowners of the province, the industry would start and would grow indefinitely, especially if subsidized at the beginning by the government, using a small part of the money now wasted - worse than wasted - on military affairs which get them nowhere and never will. I am a Quaker, with my ancestors on both sides, of that faith since long before their emigration here in 1682 to 1720.

As I said in the first place, I am unacquainted with China

0665

Yenching University

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and her agricultural conditions, but it seems to me that Yenching and the Government might both strain themselves to the utmost on the promotion of scientific farming, including dairying as the most prime feature of that education.

Also that Yenching should put more attention to the education of engineers, fitted for manufacturing institutions.

Sincerely,

W. Sharples

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December 28, 1933.

Mr. P. M. Sharples
West Chester, Pa.

Dear Mr. Sharples:

Your letter of December 11th came during my absence on the west coast. I would like very much to discuss in person with you the several questions which you raise in your letter, and hope that if you come to New York you will be sure to let me know in order that I may have the pleasure of talking with you concerning conditions in China.

I shall take up, in the order of the questions in your letter, several matters concerning which you wish information.

1. We have just secured the registration figures for the academic year 1933-34 at Yenching University. I note that 245 students are majoring in the College of Arts and Letters, 272 in the College of Natural Sciences, and 147 in the College of Public Affairs. In addition there are 27 majoring in the School of Religion, 107 are doing graduate work, and 6 are taking short courses at the University. This makes a total in enrolment of 804 students. Possibly most of the first group will become teachers, a great many of the second group will go into industrial work and the professions, especially the Chemistry students, numbering 66 majors, 103 pre-medical and 24 pre-nursing in that group.

2. Yenching also has some experimental work going on in agriculture and has a station which is working under the direction of a centrally directed program of agriculture for China. Ching Ho is really a laboratory for the School of Public Affairs and they are trying to work out there general principles upon which plans for reconstruction may be based for the whole of North China. Conditions vary so much in different portions of China that it is necessary to have experimental areas in a number of different places. In connection with the work in the country, an effort is being made by an organization fostered by Yenching University and Nankai University to provide simple occupation of a remunerative nature for farmers in Northern China during the very severe winters when no outdoor work is possible. This is taking the form of weaving, by hand, woolen cloth and the making of simple iron utensils.

3. Yenching has not attempted to go into the special fields such as engineering and manufacturing. In the first place the government has

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undertaken work of this kind in a center almost within a stone's throw of Yenching, at Tsing Hua University. Equipment for such a school would be so expensive that our resources are not adequate to provide it even if Tsing Hua were not so close. Our Chemistry Department is doing quite a good deal of work on leather and certain chemical industries, clays for porcelains and food values of Chinese foods. Some of these things have a direct commercial value and our students are able to secure positions as chemical experts in a number of the industries. Of course industries have not developed to a very great extent as yet in China but we are trying to prepare young men and young women for technical positions as these positions become available for them.

4. I wonder if you have read King's "Farmers of Forty Centuries". While this is an old book, yet it gives quite a good deal of dependable information on agricultural conditions in China. Farms in China are small and are cultivated very intensively, much as we would cultivate small gardens here. The work is largely done by human labor, though frequently the farmer may own a water buffalo which is used for ploughing or, in Central China also, for pumping water from the canals for irrigation purposes. I believe the average size of a Chinese farm operated by a family would rarely exceed 2-1/2 or 3 acres. The government theoretically is attempting to assist the farmer in the selection of grain and in the direction of improvement of farm conditions. This I fear, however, is not very satisfactorily done at the present time.

5. The Chinese do not often use milk and therefore the question of dairy cows is one to which very little consideration is given except where milk is to be provided for the foreign communities. Most of the Chinese utilize soy-bean "milk" in the place of milk from the cow. Some few use goats' milk for weak children. They do not care for butter. Cheese is made, however, from the soy-bean protein and fat and it is allowed to mould, certain moulds providing desired flavors of which the Chinese are very fond. Cattle, then, would be used more for labor than for food, since the Chinese do not use beef as food to any large extent. Pork is the main meat used in China. Foreign dairy animals have been introduced into different parts of China and in some cases have done fairly well, producing milk for the foreign community and for those of the Chinese who have been abroad and learned to use milk and its products or who look upon milk as a necessity for their young growing children because of their training in foreign institutions.

As you will see from the above hurried notes, conditions in China are very different from those here in America. I hope that some day you may be able to go to the Orient and see at first hand the conditions which exist there. I am sure you will be interested in them.

Looking forward with much pleasure to knowing you personally, and hoping that you will write me further if my letter raises other questions, I am,

Very sincerely,

H. Gist Gee,
Vice-President.

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H. M. Sharples
West Chester, Pa.

Jan. 4, 1934

Mr. N. Gist Gee,
Yenching University,
150 - Fifth Ave.,
New York, N. Y.

Dear Mr. Gee:

I have yours of Dec. 28th. I don't often get to New York, but should be much pleased to stop and have a talk with you next time I go there.

You speak of Government work at Tsing Hua. It would be interesting to know just what they are undertaking there and what they are accomplishing.

The information contained in your letter is most interesting, but owing to my own lack of knowledge or understanding of conditions, I could hardly reply to the letter in detail, for I would be talking about something of which I know so little.

I gather, however, that one of the greatest educational needs of China is the habit of co-operation, and a second imperative need is organization to perform their necessary operations with economy of time and effort.

For one hundred men to each, by hand, cultivate say three acres of land, seems to me a terrific waste of human energy. One tractor and five men, I feel sure, could do all the necessary work and do it better than the one hundred men. That would leave ninety-five - or ninety, anyhow - to operate properly equipped factories to turn out "woolen cloth" and "iron utensils" to many times supply their own needs and leave for sale to others a large surplus.

Perhaps the most valuable product of such organization would be the habit of co-operation, a very valuable characteristic of society. Perhaps it is the lack of this habit of co-operation that leaves China open to grasping peoples, and by proper co-operation as the habit of the Chinaman, could easily be prevented.

I speak of the matter of dairying because I am more familiar with that than with other branches of agriculture, altho I have been a manufacturer of machinery all of my life. The habit of co-operation should be established in all lines of endeavor.

By throwing together one hundred farms and installing

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one hundred cows with proper machinery and a few men, the cows would produce on this ground, were it properly worked, more than all the families could use of milk, butter, cheese and in addition the vegetables necessary for them to live on, if all was conducted scientifically in the best manner, which at first would need to be done under the direction of competent teachers but later would be conducted without them, especially if supplemented by State stations of experts.

you speak of agricultural experiment stations. What exact directions do these experiments take? Are they reproducing the experiments of American Experiment Stations from whom all the information is available, without repeating the same experiments in China, or are they teaching classes in agriculture and training men and women in advanced methods? That is, are they Training Schools rather than Experiment Stations?

When it comes to the matter of dairying, the greatest difficulty I believe would be the education of men in dairy lines. It is not so easy to produce a generation of dairymen, but they can be produced. Note the difference in Northern and Southern United States in this respect. The North has been well filled with competent dairy works since long before my time, but less than a generation ago there were few, almost no, dairymen in the South. Now there are thousands of very competent dairymen all over the United States.

So with China, I believe, though of course cannot know, that less than a generation can fill the Country with competent dairymen, for I think by nature the Chinaman is better fitted for a dairyman than is the American, - more gentle, more regular, more industrious.

The cost of outfitting a demonstration plant is not so great and would be extremely valuable. A complete creamery plant for handling the product from one hundred to two hundred cows need not in the U.S. exceed \$2,000. This would include building and machinery, including necessary vats and butter-making machinery.

How cold is water from deep wells in China? Refrigerating machinery is not included in above estimate. It is not great.

Cows will cost whatever you pay for them. Grade Holsteins or Gurnseys would be good, I should think, though a competent dairy instructor would know what to use. The feeding of cows on Soy Beans or Alfalfa, which I presume will grow where Soy Beans will grow, if in the hands of a competent man who would properly balance the rations would be satisfactory.

As for there being no call for dairy products in China, I am aware that it takes time to transform or change the habits of a people, but if I may be allowed to express my opinion, the quicker you get at it the better.

Every progressive Nation on the face of the earth uses

dairy products, and the higher they are civilized the more they use.


For myself, I can hardly imagine a people doing without milk, cream, butter, or cheese. Milk is nature's own perfect food and its products are more nutritious, wholesome and cheaper, in proportion to their food value, than any other.

The Chinaman would take to them, quickly, if offered to him. I have known but a few of them here, but those have been heavy milk products users. They seem to take to them avidly. About this, you will know far better than I do, however.

Holland, Belgium and Denmark are the most intense dairy people and their Country is thickly populated and they maintain a cow on a small plot of ground. Our own climate in Northern New York, Michigan, Wisconsin, Dakota and Canada, has the equal in extremes of climate of anything in China, I imagine, but all are heavy dairy countries.

I don't understand your expression, soy-bean "milk".
What is that?

Sincerely,



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January 5th, 1934

Mr Y.M. Sharples,
West Chester, Pa.

Dear Mr Sharples:-

Your letter of January 4th came in this afternoon and I shall use the few moments I have available just now to send you at least a partial answer to it.

I wish very much that you could visit China and see conditions first hand for this would be necessary for one to understand the conditions which exist there. Possibly you may be able to get over there before long and after seeing the situation you may have some very helpful ideas to suggest, for you seem to be a very practical man.

You ask about Tsing Hua University. This is an institution which was founded by the first half of the American Boxer Indemnity remitted to China during President Theodore Roosevelt's administration. This money was to found an institution for the preparation of Chinese for study in America and then a portion of the fund was to support quite a number of scholarships here for those trained (through the Sophomore year in College work by American teachers) for this type of work. This sent over a lot of rather immature students who remained in our colleges for often as long as five or six or even more years. This was finally abandoned and now this school does regular college work and also offers graduate courses in certain subjects. Only a few scholarships are now granted and these are given to more mature men for shorter periods of study. This is, I think, a very much wiser policy than the original one.

You have hit a very vital point in the Chinese situation—the lack of cooperation between groups of people. China has been thinking for hundreds of years in terms of the family and has had little idea of a national patriotism. This is just now being rapidly developed through the student classes and it will take possibly a generation to get the idea firmly started and even longer to fill it with the fuller meaning which it has to us now. It is not to be expected that things will move rapidly in China. The immense masses of people and the very high percentage of illiteracy will necessitate a long period of time for effective reforms. We have recognized these defects and are doing everything in our powers to cultivate the right habits and attitudes among the students of to-day who will be the formers of the new order of things in China.

In the same way, the reform of agricultural processes must of necessity be slow. The present methods are far from being ideal, but it will take several generations to make any changes in the general organization of farm ownership and such things as the use of expensive machinery in the cultivation of crops. The intensive drive now in China is along the line of the increase of production through selection and the introduction of better seeds and the wise use of the land as it is now held.

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There are experiment stations conducted by the Government and also those conducted by the several mission schools. Soil conditions and climatic conditions are so different in China from those in America and the types of plants differ so much that much of the experimenting done here does not carry over there and a certain amount of the same type of thing as is done here has to be worked out there. The schools are teaching agriculture also and train a group of young men who will go back to the farms and it may be through these men that there will come the larger reorganization of the farm life of China; all this will have to be a gradual process.

The Chinese have not used milk as a food in the past except in special cases such as I have already mentioned. While those who have been abroad have developed a fondness for milk and its products, yet this habit has not been introduced to any general extent among the Chinese people up to the present time. Their substitute for cow's milk has been the soy bean milk. This is the product from the beans soaked in water and then ground up very fine in a stone mill. The products when strained give a splendid food with many of the same elements as milk. It has been tried out experimentally in the Peking Union Medical College as a food for babies and the results have been very satisfactory. I believe that they find it necessary to add only a little sugar to satisfy the needs of the growing child in his early babyhood. This is much cheaper than cows milk. From the soy bean milk they also make quite a number of edible products. bean curd, cheese, etc.

I think you would be much interested in getting literature from the Department of Agriculture in Washington on the soy bean and its products. There has been quite a little work done on this food by our Government back as early as our going into the world war.

I think we should get together and have a long talk over Chinese conditions and it would give me great pleasure to talk with you, for I see that your mind is bristling with questions. Better still it would be a wonderful thing if you could go to China and see that ancient civilization as it is meeting with the western ideas which are flowing in on all hands.

With every good wish for the New Year, I am

Very sincerely,

N. Gist Gee.

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June 3, 1938

Mr. Philip M. Sharpless
226 Orange Grove Avenue
South Pasadena, California

My dear Mr. Sharpless:

It was a great pleasure to meet you and Mrs. Sharpless on my recent visit to Pasadena. I am not certain that I left with you the enclosed folder, briefly stating the needs of Yenching University in which you have been interested.

As I stated, we are greatly in need of funds with which to close our fiscal year on June 30th without deficit. I did not ask you definitely for a contribution when I called on you because I wanted you to think the matter over. If you are in a position to make a contribution at this time or to make a pledge to be paid any time during the coming year, it will encourage us very much. You will observe that we require \$50,000 for the current year's needs.

Next year is going to be even a harder load for us. Our needs will be \$70,000, more than twice as much as this year. This is due to the fact that so many Chinese contributions have been cut off on account of the war. Not only this, but many of the parents of the students have lost all in the war and these students do not know which way to turn. We feel that we must help them out in order to enable them to prepare themselves for the Christian leadership which China so greatly needs.

I am sure that your heart has been touched by the awful suffering which the Chinese have endured. There have been many instances of heroic sacrifices among our students and we are doing everything we can to sustain their morale and enable them to carry on during this time of testing.

Hoping that you may be able to assist us either by a remittance now or a pledge for a payment sometime prior to July 1, 1938, I remain

Most sincerely yours,

E. M. McBrier

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Enc.

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