

DEC 26 1935

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
NEW YORK

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Rural Reconstruction
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HAMILTON HOUSE
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SHANGHAI, CHINA.

CABLE ADDRESS: ROCKFOUND, SHANGHAI
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Personal

September 9, 1935

Dear Max:

I am sending you in this mail the documents concerning Agriculture in Nanking, for your consideration, and action by the Executive Committee, if approved. I hope you will find that these are adequate. I have attempted to adopt the suggestions which you made in your letter to me of June 27th concerning material of this kind.

It has not been feasible for me to take any real vacation this summer, but I have taken it reasonably easy and Carroll and I have played a good deal of golf. The summer, luckily for us, was not unusually hot, and we are both in good condition.

President Henry, of Lingnan University, passed through here a day or two ago, and I am planning to leave Shanghai for Hong Kong and Canton on the 26th of September. I shall probably spend a few days in Hong Kong finishing up a report along the lines suggested by you in your letter to me of June 27th. I have already assembled the essential information, and I hope that, in accordance with your desire, you will get the report before the end of October. Taken by and large, I feel that the China Program is progressing satisfactorily and in line with the China Report adopted by the Trustees in December, 1934. It has not been an easy job, and this is one of the reasons why I have had to stay in Shanghai through the summer. Complications of various kinds have come up frequently, but we have been able to overcome them. I have not bothered you with the details of these difficulties, as they have been transitory, and mostly unimportant. Our chief complication has arisen through the fundamental difficulty of getting the Chinese to work together. As you will recall, the

essense of some of our Chinese projects demands that different institutions work cooperatively. We have had some rather unexpected disappointments in this direction, and it would not be fair to say that as yet we have been able to overcome all of them. Perhaps it is natural that Jimmy Yen, who has been "going it alone" for so many years finds it a bit irksome to have men from other institutions putting their fingers into his private pie. As a matter of fact, the weakness of Yen's work has been largely due to his lack of desire to give too great a prominence to men who have not been connected with his Movement.

I have more or less abandoned the idea of extensive visits to other areas because of the difficulties involved in making such visits without getting involved in ultimate financial assistance. There are instances where visits might be made without running any risk of disappointment. There are certain places where I should like to visit to see their work, but I can assure you that I will take precautions to avoid opening up projects which we could not be financially interested in under existing conditions. We have spent a great deal of time attempting to inform and educate the Chinese with regard to our existing program and resources. This is being quite successful, as the pressure on us has decreased very markedly during the past few months.

I am wondering how you would feel with regard to my coming to New York shortly before the April 1936 meeting of the Board of Trustees. I am doing my best to keep you informed of what is going on, but of course correspondence has its limitations, and I would not want the Chinese program jeopardized if a visit on my part might clarify the situation in a manner which is difficult to do

by correspondence. The matter of future appropriation for the projects in which we are already engaged has also an important bearing on the question of my returning to New York. As you will have noted, we have made appropriations covering only one year. It seems reasonable, and from certain angles desirable that further appropriations to these projects, if our first year's experience is satisfactory, should be made for a two-year period, or, in other words, to the end of the existing Chinese program. This would involve appropriating the bulk of the balance of the money available for China at the meeting of the Trustees in April, 1936, or at the meeting of the Executive Committee at about the same time. As this would amount to roughly about \$600,000 (US), it would appear to be of a magnitude making Trustee consideration possibly desirable. April 1936 would likely be premature for a decision with regard to extending the China Program beyond the present three-year grant, but it would not, perhaps, be too early to inform the Officers and Trustees thoroughly of the existing situation.

The experience of the past few months has made it possible for us to translate the generalization of earlier thinking into more specific channels, particularly as to the execution of our own objectives. While we see no reason to change these objectives, we are coming to the belief that they can be better obtained through a concentration and extension of University investigation and training into the community field. Our present program, of course, is doing this, in part, but I believe that we may more nearly reach our objective of aiding Rural Reconstruction along these lines than along the more revolutionary concepts of the Ting Hsien experiment. This concept is one of political extension

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while the University-Community concept is one that looks toward providing opportunity for the universities with fields for investigation and training off the campus and in real contact with the rural problems. "Tingsienism" is needed for the promoting and widespread application of the proven facts that lead to rural welfare in all branches, but the Universities and their staffs, at least in the present Chinese situation, are in a much more strategic position to work out the techniques in many fields. This angle might well be discussed with the Officers. These are some of the reasons why it appears to me, from this end, that personal contact with the New York office and the Trustees might be advisable next spring. If I were as near as the Paris office, I am sure there would be no question of my return.

I would appreciate it if you would send me a cable indicating your opinion on this proposal, so that I can make my plans accordingly.

approval called
10/17/35

Yours sincerely,

Elyse H. Gurn

Mr. Max Mason
The Rockefeller Foundation
New York

SMG:MC