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Rural Reconstruction

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
NEW YORK

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HAMILTON HOUSE
170 KIANGSE ROAD
SHANGHAI, CHINA.

CABLE ADDRESS: ROCKFOUND, SHANGHAI
TEL. NO. 14959

Dear Ray:

I spent five days last week in Nanking and I am sending you herewith the following general comments:

1. Political Situation. There is no question about the tenseness of the relationships between China and Japan, and apparently the Chinese in the last few weeks have been carrying on extensive preparations to prepare themselves in case war should actually break out. The back bone of the Chinese people as far as I can gather is infinitely stiffer than I have ever known it, and while the unification of China is perhaps not as complete as the authorities would like one to believe, I cannot help but feel that there has been a material improvement along these lines. There is a growing fatalistic attitude, and although it is quite obvious that the Chinese do not want war, they are showing much greater determination to fight than I have ever observed. In the last two or three days the situation has been less tense, but it would be ill advised to contend that the danger of war has been averted.

2. National Health Administration. I am sending you under separate cover the annual report of the Health Personnel Training and a volume of photographs of the work which was done with our collaboration for the year ending June 30, 1936. You may not find it necessary to read this through in detail, but I hope you will agree with us that something of real importance in the field of health training is being accomplished. Our financial aid and technical advice have been particularly valuable in making the local authorities

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realize the importance of the work, improving the standards and facilities and developing even a certain enthusiasm for this activity. I visited both the urban and rural training centers and the general impression was favorable. The National Health Administration, as you will observe from the report, has built in the same compound with its other buildings a special one for the training work. This building is just completed and will be occupied and used in a few days.

3. Commission on Medical Education - Ministry of Education. Long interviews which I had with Mr. Wang Shih-chieh, Minister of Education, and Doctor C. K. Chu, the Director of the Commission on Medical Education, were very cordial and satisfactory. I shall be sending you a report of the year ending June 30, 1936, of this activity before long. Our contribution has undoubtedly stabilized the Commission, put it practically on a full time basis, and brought about a real understanding of the importance of medical and public health education in the Ministry. You will get the details from the report when it is submitted.

4. National Agricultural Research Bureau. This institution, which you may recall we consider as being one of the most alert and capable activities of a technical character of the National Government, has made great progress during the past year under the direction of Doctor K. S. Sie. It has been admirably financed by the National Government. Our contribution you may recall is particularly in connection with insecticide work in relationship to economic plants. In aiding this Bureau we have strengthened its prestige

and position considerably. I am also sending you a copy of their report which, as a matter of fact, only covers nine months as our collaboration did not begin until October 1, 1935. The most important contribution from our work to date is in connection with an insect pest of cotton. This work will be more fully described in their next report. According to their statement, however, they have been able to work out a cheap insecticide which destroys the aphids and their tests, including control areas, already give promise that they have found an agent which will not only destroy the aphids, but can be carried on at such a low cost that it is economically possible for Chinese cotton farmers. Another year of experience and experiment is necessary in order to draw final conclusions. We are beginning this year to give a number of local fellowships to this Bureau, not only in insecticide work but also in rice studies and other important branches of agriculture.

5. University of Nanking - Department of Economics. Our first year's cooperation with this activity ended September 30, 1936, and their report has not yet been submitted. However, conversations with Professor Buck and others are encouraging. The important study of land utilization with accompanying atlases and tables will be issued early next year. This activity as you may possibly recall has been largely financed in the past years by grants made by the Institute of Pacific Relations with money largely supplied by the Foundation. The Chinese Government apparently thinks well enough of this job to have put up more than L.C.\$30,000 towards the publication expenses. Professor Buck with money supplied by us has increased his staff, at least temporarily, with two men from Cornell University. They have only

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recently arrived and I am not in a position to say how valuable their contribution may be. The Department of Agricultural Economics of Nanking University still maintains its position as the leading institution in China in this field. It continues to receive grants from Government banks and other organizations for the conduct of special investigations. In fact, its income from regular university sources is small compared with the funds which it is capable of raising (including our funds) from outside sources.

6. Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Medicine - National Central University. This activity has been without any doubt the weakest of the China Program in Nanking to date. However, my visit to Nanking gave me more encouragement than I anticipated. The staff has been materially added to and with rather well trained Chinese who have studied in America at Ames and Cornell. Our money has been used largely in the field of animal husbandry. You will recall that in the docket of the item as presented by me to the Trustees, I referred to the desirability of getting a foreign veterinary out to China to cooperate with this institution. When I was in the States this year I interviewed various people and made a trip to Ithaca to see whether or not we could locate any desirable person. I also looked up some men in Europe. All the papers in connection with this matter I turned over to the university authorities, and they have decided, and I think wisely, that they would like very much to have someone from Cornell University. They are to write me about this matter in a few days, and then I shall transmit to you a request for an appropriation that will make it possible to supply this institution with competent men in veterinary science for a period of at least three years. There are two men at Cornell either of whom

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in my opinion would be able to assist this institution in a very real way. They are Professor Burch and Professor Fincher. It might not be possible to have the same man spend three years in China, but if we could get these men to come out in turn, I believe we could justify the expense. You may recall that Cornell University with assistance from the International Education Board cooperated with the Nanking University over a period of years, making it possible for a number of professors to come out one after another to work in the field of seed selection. You are probably familiar with the success of that venture. In fact it is fair to say I believe that the very great improvement in wheat, cotton, millet and other economic plants which has taken place in this country and which is increasing all the time, was largely due to the International Education Board grants. To summarize the situation in connection with this item, I think it is reasonable to state that some progress has already been made and that the chances for future development of this extremely important activity seem fair.

7. National Economic Health Institute for Information and Coordination.

You will recall that the Trustees at the April meeting at my suggestion voted an appropriation of L.C.\$40,000 towards this activity. A first payment was made, but shortly after the money was returned as the National Economic Council was reorganized and it was decided to curtail its activities to a much more limited field. Meanwhile, the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture showed an interest in the project, but due to the absence of Professor Leonard Hsu the whole question is lying in abeyance at the moment. Professor Hsu will be returning shortly and I shall then write you in regard to this whole matter. If the Government decides that it wishes to put through the

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program, it will require action by New York to change the resolution so that the beneficiary would be the Ministry of Industry and Agriculture rather than the National Economic Council.

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8. Local Fellowships. There seems to be a great deal of real enthusiasm in the Foundation local fellowship program, not only in Nanking but also in North China. You will recall that last year we had 140 local fellows. This year the number will probably be higher. We have stiffened up quite materially our standards and are after quality as well as quantity. At the end of the year I shall prepare you a special report on local fellowships which in addition to giving information concerning the new fellows appointed with this year's appropriation, will also give a record of what has happened to the local fellows whose fellowships have already expired.

9. General. The position of the Foundation in Nanking both in governmental and educational circles seems to be excellent, and there is more expression of appreciation than is usually to be found in this country. Possibly our chief contribution to date has been in the selection of rural reconstruction as our main objective. It is impossible to measure just how far our influence extends in this broad subject. I hope that political complications will not interfere with the real push in many parts of China in activity concerned with the raising of the social and economic level of the Chinese farmers and their families.

This letter may sound unduly optimistic in regard to the success so far of our program. However, I believe that it represents a fair picture of the situation as it exists today.

Mr. R. B. Fosdick
The Rockefeller Foundation
49 West 49th Street
New York, N. Y., U.S.A.

Yours sincerely,

Elskar M. Gunn
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