

Aug. 14, 1925

Percy B. Tripp, Esq.,  
Tientsin, China.

Dear Percy:-

I am just in receipt of yours of July 18<sup>th</sup> and that of June 13<sup>th</sup> reached me some little time ago but I have been waiting to reply to same until I could get the draft that you asked for. The first opportunity I had to go to the Merchants Bank and Trust Company to purchase the draft for you was on August 11<sup>th</sup>. I took your check in and left it with them and asked them to send me a draft and I just received it yesterday. I herewith enclose you draft they sent me for the \$100 check and their charge for the draft was fifty cents.

I am very much interested in your explanation of the cause of the present war in China it verifies my own suspicion of the matter. I see the United States is doing their best to hold England down in the control of China's affairs and I think is going to successful, and I am looking to China to ultimately receive a great benefit out of this movement. It looks to me that the United States is the only real friend that China has among the Nations.

Referring to your letter of July 18<sup>th</sup> just received to-day I have been waiting for this authority to dispose of the \$5000 in my hands in accordance with your ideas as far as possible consistent with the demand of the creditors. I have made the semi-annual payment that was past due on the Farm Loan and some other matters that I will send you account of.

Now in regard to the sale of the property – Mrs. Byars was positively out of the market and we could not interest her again although we did our best. The mistake was made on your part in not accepting her proposition when it was made but as you know in real estate transactions as in other matters people change their minds very rapidly and when the directors of the Bank ordered the sale of the property there was nothing to do but make the best sale of it that was possible at that time, and I postponed it and held it over in an effort to get a better price and I assure you that I did the very best I could to get the very best possible price I could for it at the time.

I want to say in explanation of the action of the Bank in the matter that this action was compelled by the State Examiner who ordered the Bank to collect the amount that was overdue. You see the banks are not allowed to carry overdue paper and this paper had not only become overdue but the interest was accruing and charged up to the principal which was another violation of the State Banking Laws so there was no alternative of the Bank but to obey the mandate of the State Bank Examiner and either collect the amount due or foreclose under the trust and as it was impossible for you to make any payment on account of the interest on the note the only plan open to the bank was to foreclose and then it was my duty and pleasure to get the very best price for the property that I could.

I will say in the connection that I would have been glad to have bought the property myself and was approached by a party who wanted I should join in the purchase of it but as it was illegal for me as trustee to be directly concerned in the purchase of the property I would not do anything indirectly or underhandedly what I could not do openly, and honestly and I do not see how I could consistently become the purchaser either in whole or in part either directly or indirectly and justify myself in getting the best price for the property for you.

I want to assure you that I have done everything in my power to protect your interest and get the best price of the property I could. It is unfortunately that Mrs. Byars proposition was not accepted but as that was declined and she would not renew it and was out of the market at that time the only thing I could do was to seek another purchaser and I assure you that I did everything that I could for your protection in the matter.

I am doing the very best I can to get something of Hester but it a tough proposition.

We are having a good season here now, plenty of rain and crops are looking fine. We have had some pretty warm weather but nothing very disagreeable.

Everything is moving on here about as usual and I hope to have time to write you a longer letter in the near future.

Very truly yours,  
M.E. Church

