

Jan 22, 1925

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

Dear Percy:-

I just received yours of December 11<sup>th</sup> and have been waiting until I could see Mr. Hester before replying to same. I have sent up to his place several times and have written him various letters without any response. I have heard that he had sold all his stock and also heard he had vacated the property. Mrs. Hester came into the office this morning and says Mr. Hester has been sick in bed since the first of January and that they had attempted to sell their stock and real estate but they only sold a part of the stock and the money derived from the sale of that went to pay the feed bill to Mr. Lynch and they got not bid on their real estate. They are still living on your property but they are going to move into their own house which has just been vacated and are going to sell that house as soon as possible and pay up their debts. Now I wish you would write me immediately on receipt of this whether or not to bring suit and get judgment put on record as that would of course stand against their real estate and if it ever brought enough to pay the prior encumbrance the judgment would be collectible. I believe they are thoroughly honest and mean to pay but their circumstances are such that it is impossible for them to pay anything now and the question is how best to secure the payments in the future. I would like your specific instructions on this matter and will be guided by same.

How in regard to your insurance premiums. Mr. Rust has only sent me one check for \$50.00 and I used that and I am enclosing you herewith a statement of our account just as it stands. You know that the rent money was attached in my hands for taxes and I used some of that rent money on your insurance so the balance I have in hand I must hold as against your taxes or I will be personally liable in the Court. I am enclosing you several insurance notices that I have received. Am also returning the declaration of impaired health as it has to be signed at the bottom of the slip. I think there are some other declarations in the notices that I am enclosing you that will need to be signed.

I am glad to learn that your prospects of employment and income there are so good and hope they will materialize to your highest expectations.

There is nothing new in the quarry matter. I turned the papers you sent me over to Mr. Rust but have had no report from him as the present status. Court is now in session and I presume he has the matter in this Court but he has been sick and lost his mother and I presume he may be somewhat behind in his office work. I will report to you, however, as soon as I hear anything from him unless he reports direct to you. I have had one or two inquiries in reference to the quarry but of course nothing can be done until this suit is settled.

As to the future I am hoping there is going to be a demand for property in the vicinity of your place in the spring and if anything like an adequate price can be obtained I would advise you to sell it and clean up your indebtedness for the holders of the trusts will soon become impatient and order a sale under the terms of the trust which would not probably be advantageous as a private sale. I am going to try my best to get a proposition and submit to you.

I see by the papers that political conditions are still unsettled but hope they are not effecting you.

I presume you have heard of Mr. Galpin's death and also the death of Will Ball.

We have had considerable winter here since the 1<sup>st</sup> of January. Mrs. Church and I and Guy's family went to Florida to spend Christmas with Maybelle and returned about the first of the month and found the ground covered with snow which has remained ever since with some addition. The weather has not been extremely cold, only down to about 14 above which I think was the coldest but we have had a great deal of stormy weather and our dirt roads have been in a fearful condition. Fortunately, however, we have the main thoroughfares now improved so we can get most of any place even the worst of weather. Trusting this will find yourself and family well and wishing you a very happy and prosperous New Year, I am,

Very truly yours,  
M. E. Church