

Tientsin, China
June 13, 1925

Dear Dr. Church:

Your letter of May 9th was received several days ago, I was glad to learn that you were at that time still endeavoring to get a better offer on my property. By this time, of course, something definite has been done and I shall probably have further word from you within a week at most.

You will find enclosed a check for \$100.00. I believe you will find sufficient to my credit to cover this amount; if there should not be enough, please deposit what is necessary from any funds in your hands to make up the full sum. I am calculating this as money deposited from H. L. Rust and Swift payments which I had expected to employ in curtailing certain other debts which will now be taken care of from the sale of the property. As soon as you conveniently can when you go into the city I wish you would please to the Merchant's Bank and Trust Co. and buy a draft for \$100.00 payable to me at the current rate of the exchange when cashed at the International Banking Corporation, Tientsin, China. So far I have found that the Merchants Bank and Trust Co, gives the best and least expensive service; - some other companies route their exchanges thru Shanghai, with double exchange charges.

As long as I am actually teaching I make sufficient to defray most of our expenses, but as my classes are private, there is no revenue during summer vacation and I have very little reserve, hence I should appreciate your early attention to this matter, as I shall be pretty well down to the bottom of the barrel by the time the draft reaches me in August. Please ask the F.C. bank to send me a statement of account.

You have been reading in the papers about the disturbances in Shanghai and the general agitation throughout the country by students and others. I hope the reports you have been getting are not all from British sources. Undoubtedly the British policies in Shanghai have been guilty of a most atrocious massacre. Labor trouble had developed in some of the Japanese owned cotton mills in Shanghai, - the workers claiming that they were badly treated by the Japanese foremen, that working conditions were not safe and wages too low. How much of this was true I do not know, as strikers usually make assertions and claims in excess of the facts, but I can readily believe that the first cause of complaint was founded on fact as the Japanese are generally inclined to be overbearing wherever they have the least authority. In the course of the disturbances a Chinese worker or two were killed by being shot by Japanese at the mill. Evidence tends to show that the Japanese were in no personal danger, but perhaps there was margin of excuse for them in being frightened at the tumult of the strikers.

The students of Shanghai were in sympathy with the demands of the strikers, and the killing some of the latter led to public protests in the form of the issuance of pamphlets, parades and street speeches. This was really quite legitimate, as no violence was contemplated. The British police, who dominate the so-called International Settlement of Shanghai, arrested several of the students and took them to a British police station. The other students, in the spirit of student loyalty to be found anywhere in the world, marched to the police station to make a protest. A crowd of people other than students soon gathered; the police at first succeeded in pushing back the crowd, but shortly the numbers became so great that the pressure from behind made it impossible alike for either the police or the students at the front to hold their ground. There was a surge forward and the students were helplessly caught between two forces. The British police officer gave command to his squad to fire. He might have commanded to shoot over their heads, but he didn't; he might have ordered to shoot at the legs to try the effect of that, but he didn't. He ordered the police to shoot point blank to kill. Reliable eye-witnesses, be foreign and Chinese, state that one shot was first fired and immediately the crowd began to break up from the rear, but before they had the ghost of a chance to disperse as they evidently wanted to do, forty or fifty more shots were poured in. Four unarmed and defenseless students were killed instantly and several more died shortly after from their wounds and an unknown number were more or less

wounded. In this case the excuse of excitement does not hold, as the police officer in charge showed remarkable coolness in getting the names of witnesses, removing the dead bodies and attending to other matters immediately after the event. He claims that the British law gives authority to shoot to kill and that he did not exceed his authority;- as for common humanity, he seems to have no appreciation whatever. Now, unfortunately, instead of the British consul at Shanghai, the British Minister at Peking and the majority of the British residents in China generally admitting that the action of the police was probably hasty, unwarranted and unjustifiable and offering to abide by the decision of a commission of investigation, they are assessing that the fault was all on the part of the students, the police did their duty, the student movement was inspired by Bolsheviks and was generally anti foreign, etc, etc. This is all typical British propaganda. To be sure some Bolshevik literature has been found in possession of a few students, but, as some have pointed out, there is probably not a large city in any country of the world where some such literature cannot be found if wanted to uphold particular claims and it is very well known that the vast majority of Chinese students are utterly opposed to Bolshevism.

The whole root of the matter is that the British are exceedingly conceited and overbearing in their dealings with Oriental peoples and have undertaken to act in China as they can act with more less impunity in India or other regions of the earth that are helplessly under their dominion.

Aside from the shooting affair another cause of ill-feeling at Shanghai has been the attempt of the British to enact certain municipal regulations that were really beyond their authority, - imposing a wharfage tax that would cause great damage to the business of Chinese merchants but would give the British large revenue to carry out certain municipal improvements that would be of benefit almost solely to the British residents of the city, - also certain printing taxes with criminal punishment for infractions, brokerage laws, etc. Then too, they have lately attempted to build automobile roads beyond the limits of the International Settlement without getting the permission of the Chinese government to do so. A great many British merchants own automobiles and want a wider range of travel for them. In short, the British have been acting more or less as if they were masters in the land instead of guests. I am glad to see that thirty British missionaries in Peking have published their disapproval of the Shanghai affair, but most of the British, if not upholding the police, decline to say anything on the matter.

Perhaps the Falls Church correspondent of one of the Washington papers might like to make use of the latter part of this letter as first hand news from a former resident of the town. If you think it would be of interest, let them have it.

We have been having exceptionally cool weather so far this year. Yesterday was rather hot, but a thunderstorm at night has made us seek warmer clothing this morning. We see by cable dispatches that America has been suffering excessive heat and many have died as a result.

Yours Truly
Percy B. Tripp